

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 070

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

I N S I D E

See NORITA on Page 8

See HOUSE on Page 8

Local

Saipan-Hong Kong flights kick off today

Continental Micronesia will begin new, nonstop flights between Saipan and Hong Kong today.

Continental flight 909, which currently operates nonstop between Guam and Hong Kong, will operate from Guam to Hong Kong with a stop in Saipan beginning Nov. 1. On the return, Continental flight 910 will operate nonstop from Hong Kong to Saipan and continue on to Guam.

The Saipan-Hong Kong flights will operate on Mondays

and Fridays. The flights will be serviced by next-generation Boeing 737-800s, which can seat 189 passengers.

Flight time between Saipan and Hong Kong is approximately four hours and 45 minutes.

Continental flight 909 will leave Guam at 4:50pm, with estimated arrival time on Saipan at 5:35pm. From Saipan, CO909 will leave at 6:20pm, to arrive in Hong Kong at 9:15pm.

Continental flight 910 will

leave Hong Kong at 10:05pm, to arrive on Saipan at 4:45am. The service will then take off from Saipan at 5:30am and land on Guam at 6:10am.

The Saipan-Hong Kong service is among a number of service offerings to the CNMI that Continental is planning for this year.

Starting this week, the airline will also increase to thrice weekly its nonstop service between Saipan and Manila.

The direct service to and

from Manila was introduced in December last year. Currently, flights are operated every Tuesday and Friday, with 8:45pm departures from Saipan and 10pm takeoffs in Manila.

In addition, nonstop flights between Saipan and Taipei are scheduled to begin Nov. 3.

New Continental Connection commuter service, operated by Cape Air, between Guam and the CNMI began this summer. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

Costume contests delight night clubs

GIG discotheque and Saipan Grand Hotel's Madonna disco attracted a variety of impersonators in contests for the best Halloween costume yesterday night.

Madonna filled the stage with seven participants competing for the sexiest, scariest, and most original costume.

The participants stood center

stage, while the crowd cheered on their favorite costumed participant. Judges were on hand to make the final decision for the winners in the three categories.

"Storm" of X-Men fame was recognized as the sexiest costume, while "Catwoman" took the most original costume. On the other hand, "Titanic priest"

Roderick Hernandez received the scariest costume award.

Winners were given cash prizes, Miller Lite merchandise, T-shirts, and IT & E phone cards among others.

Sponsors for the bash included Power 99 FM, Pacific Distributors Inc., and IT & E among others.

In a similar event, Microl

Distributors hosted a Halloween bash that took place at GIG Discotheque. A variety of impersonators rushed into the club to take part in the contest which awarded \$500 to the winner.

Taking home first place was crowd favorite Jojo Juson, who came dressed as a Las Vegas showgirl. *(Cassie DLG Fejeran)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Grand Hotel's Madonna hosted a Halloween costume party that delighted the crowd last Friday. Photo shows emcee Dice interviewing one of the winners, "Catwoman."

marpac
+red

Island Snapshots

The *Island Snapshots* accept contributed pictures of milestones, weddings, baptisms, and other noteworthy and family events for these publications. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete date for description of the event, identities of the persons in the photo, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The *Island Snapshots* reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication, and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 223-6337, 223-2448, or 223-4743.

'Personal, private, political solicitations not allowed'

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Forget about asking your legislators or public officials to use their (public) funds for your personal items, travel expenditures, utilities payment, private fundraising and expenses associated with political campaigns, as these would not be granted.

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial issued a memorandum last week informing all House members "to strictly adhere to the Public Purpose tests and follow the same set of legal guidelines when entertaining requests for public funds, so that we enjoy consistency and avoid discrepancies."

Public purpose, as contained in Public Law 12-2 refers to specific appropriation or expenditure that is considered "a culturally and traditionally significant part of the community."

Fitial issued the order after finally receiving—"after months of delay"—a set of the guidelines from the Department of Finance. The guidelines, sent by Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig on Oct. 6, 2004, said that while it is difficult to determine what constitutes a culturally or traditionally significant part of the community and what constitutes a legitimate community interest, guidelines can be issued to see whether a request meets the public purpose test.

He said a public purpose requires that it "confers a direct benefit to a culturally or traditionally significant part of the community and that the community has an interest in having the individual or individuals benefited."

The regulation, he said, contains samples showing "personal and political expenditures are not allowable."

These include solicitations for food or clothing, personal membership fees, and contributions in cash or donation

of any tangible or intangible item or product to any person; travel expenditures for persons for medical treatment such as airline tickets, hotel accommodations, meals, gifts, and related expenses; travel expenditures for people who are not government employees; expenses for private individual's utility: water, electricity, gas, telephone, and similar payments; sponsorship of CNMI sports teams, fundraising activities for private individuals, and any expenditure associated with political campaign functions.

At the same time, Atalig said that the following expenditures are considered public purpose: school-related activities such as donations for students joining Close Up or Junior Statesman programs; funeral donations in kind such as food, water, and tents; business lunches/entertainment which would fall under official representation; sports teams donations given to the overall association and not a particular sports team; community and cultural events donations like food, water, and tents; and promotions for special events such as New Year's Day, Christmas, Veterans Day, etc. and congratulatory messages for honored citizens.

As to the school-related activities, Atalig said that a request for solicitation should come from the association president or school principal.

He said that any donation should be made to the association or school, not to one individual.

"In the past, we have denied requests for class trips and class reunions," he said.

For business lunches/entertainment, the expense should be completely documented with the name and position of persons entertained, nature and purpose and its direct relationship to CNMI government business, description of matters dis-



Fitial

cussed, and original receipts.

"Based on the regulations, these expenditures are authorized for entertainment of off-island government guests, or to promote goodwill or public interest," said Atalig.

Atalig said that both the House leadership and the Office of the Public Auditor brought up the issue on constraints imposed by the law.

He said the regulation makes use of "foremost test" which requires that any expenditure should show direct or indirect benefits to the community.

In his letter, Atalig said that

tradition and custom as well as particular facts and circumstances of each case should be taken into consideration when determining whether a public purpose is served.

The House of Representatives leadership earlier asked OPA to give lawmakers a clear

cut policy on how to implement solicitation procedures.

Lawmakers usually receive solicitations from people for different projects or activities some of which could not be considered culturally significant "but help promote the Northern Marianas."

PHI

lottery

pestex

hardt eye

pierce
+red

Foul weather expected to continue

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

CNMI residents can expect the wet weather to continue for a few more days, as tropical depression 28W has intensified into a tropical storm.

Weather officials announced yesterday that tropical storm Nock-Ten continues to slowly intensify and is still moving west.

At 4pm yesterday, the National Weather Service tracked the center of the storm near latitude 10.6 degrees north and longitude 153.8 degrees east. This is about 625 miles east-southeast of Saipan and 640 miles east-southeast of Guam.

No watches or warnings were in effect in the Marianas.

With a wind speed at 65 miles per hour, tropical storm Nock-Ten was moving west at about 7 mph. This general motion was expected to continue over the next 24 hours.

The storm has sped up slightly and has come closer to the Marianas region, as compared with its general motion earlier yesterday afternoon.

At 2pm yesterday, the storm was moving westward at 6 mph. The NWS in Guam located the eye of the storm near latitude 10.5 degrees north and longitude 154.2 degrees east. This is about 655 miles southeast of Saipan and 670 miles east-southeast of Guam.

Typically, the slower the storm moves, the more power it can possibly gain.


COMMUNITY
Briefs

WEATHER FORECAST
PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., MARCH 9, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fresh to strong trade winds across much of Micronesia converging into lighter winds near the Equator are producing scattered showers between the Equator and 8N from 130E to 153 and between the Equator and 6N from 160E to 180. A cold front stretches from 25N161E to 20N146E and continues as a shear line to 19N130E. Low- and mid-level clouds...light rain and showers associated with this feature extend up to 200 miles north of the boundary. Trade wind convergence south of the cold front/shear line is producing low clouds and showers between 12N and 18N from 132E to 150E. This area includes the Mariana Islands.


SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.

GUAM AND ROTA

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 mph. Highs near 87. Lows near 76.

PALAU

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15 kt.

YAP AND ULITHI

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.

KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CHUUK

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 15-20 kt.

MAJURO

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Sunny	71F (22C)	60F (16C)
 Beijing	Sunny	65F (18C)	48F (9C)
 Hong Kong	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
 London, England	Sunny	45F (7C)	30F (-1C)
 Los Angeles	Sunny	79F (26C)	59F (15C)
 Manila	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	73F (23C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	75F (24C)	59F (15C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
 New York City	Cloudy	40F (4C)	34F (1C)
 Osaka	Partly Cloudy	37F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Paris	Partly Cloudy	38F (3C)	25F (-4C)
 Pusan	Partly Cloudy	53F (12C)	39F (4C)
 Rome	Cloudy	49F (9C)	30F (-1C)
 Salem, Oregon	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	40F (4C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	68F (20C)	52F (11C)
 Seoul	Partly Cloudy	47F (8C)	35F (2C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	42F (6C)	36F (2C)
Washington, DC	Cloudy	45F (7C)	34F (1C)

Continental: Alliance with SkyTeam a boon to tourism

Passengers, as well as the Northern Marianas' tourism industry, stand to benefit from the decision of Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines to join a global airline alliance, a ranking Continental Airlines official said.

Wally Dias, Continental staff vice president for sales and marketing, said numerous benefits are now available to CNMI and global travelers because of Continental and Northwest's membership to the SkyTeam Alliance.

The two carriers, both operating on Saipan, joined the alliance in September, at the same time as KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

"Because Continental is now a member of the Sky-

Team Alliance, passengers can avail of more lounges around the world. In addition, they can earn more miles on different airlines," Dias said.

Further, Continental and Northwest's membership in the group is expected to help open new markets for the tourism industry, he added.

"With SkyTeam, we will be able to come up with new code-share flights from other markets and bring people into [the region]," Dias said. "We have just started. More and more benefits will surely be coming together for the passengers, as we go along."

SkyTeam is the global airline alliance partnering Aeromexico, Air France, Alitalia, Continental Airlines, CSA Czech Airlines,

Delta Air Lines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Korean Air, and Northwest Airlines.

According to a Continental press statement, SkyTeam member airlines provide passengers not only additional

travel options, but also greater recognition in terms of frequent flyer mileage accrual and redemption possibilities.

Effective Sept. 15, 2004, passengers traveling with any of the nine member airlines can

earn miles towards SkyTeam Elite status and redeem miles on any of the nine airline members. This means that customers can accrue valuable frequent flyer miles quicker than before.

On the ground, SkyTeam

Elite Plus passengers have access to an additional 62 state-of-the-art airport lounges with amenities to make travel easier—bringing the total number of airport lounges to more than 390. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

First batch of SHEFA scholarships out

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board this week forwarded to the Secretary of Finance SHEFA's first recipients of academic performance scholarship.

A SHEFA scholar must maintain or exceed a 3.5 grade point average or a 4.0 GPA.

The academic performance scholarship is SHEFA's second batch of financial assistance to qualified Saipan residents attending U.S. accredited colleges or universities at home or abroad.

The amount of academic performance scholarship is \$2,000 for the fall semester and \$2,000 for spring 2005.

Of the approximately 200 Saipan applicants for fall 2004, only 30 percent qualify for this highly coveted scholarship, according to SHEFA.

To qualify for SHEFA's financial assistance, a college student must be a bona fide resident of Saipan, including the Northern Islands; must be enrolled in a U.S. accredited college or university on full-time status; not taking any remedial classes; and a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident.

For more information about SHEFA and the assistance program log on to www.saipanshefa.com or call the SHEFA Office at 664-2585 and ask for Sue, or the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at 235-7444 and ask for Florence Camacho-Stephen. The email address is contact@saipanshefa.com.

hardt eye

lottery

CARS
UNLIMITED

**share the power
of a wish**

"I want to go somewhere"

MAKE-A-WISH.

Mail to:
401 G. Marine Dr., Bldg. Pacific Plaza
P.O. Box 1001, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 449-9434
Fax: (671) 449-9435
Email: makeawish@msn.com
www.wish.org

Office Hours: 8:00am to 4:00pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

DPS occupant protection and sobriety checkpoints this week

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting occupant protection and sobriety checkpoints for two days this week.

An occupant protection checkpoint will be conducted on Thursday, Nov. 11, on 2W Hwy Tanapag by Top Fashion. This will start at approximately 8am and will finish at 9:15am.

Another occupant protection checkpoint will also be conducted by the DPS on Beach Road Susupe by the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. This operation will begin at approximately 3:30pm and will finish at approximately 4:45pm.

DPS' Traffic Section will then conduct sobriety checkpoints on Saturday, November 13. The first setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in

San Jose by the Sablan Building. This will commence at approximately 7:30pm and will end at approximately 8:45pm.

The second sobriety checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Triple J Motors. This will begin at approximately 10pm and will end at approximately 11:15pm.

This activity is part of the DPS' efforts to deter and detect drunk/intoxicated drivers and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, the DPS traffic officers will be performing highway criminal interdiction, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

For more information, please contact Rose Ada-Hocog or Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar at 664-9084-5.

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Four alien workers were ordered to depart the Commonwealth, as the Department of Labor Hearing Office called for an investigation against a businesswoman who employed the workers and six others without valid permits or authorization.

In an Oct. 29 administrative order, Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody affirmed the Labor director's decision to deny the permit applications filed by employer Julia S. Seman for 10 nonresident workers.

Seman is owner of One Call Services, a company that provides commercial cleaning to the Northern Marianas College and other businesses in Saipan. She also owns Oram

Security Services, which provides security guard services to businesses in Saipan.

The order was issued to resolve an appeal concerning 10 workers whose transfer applications were denied by the Labor department. Five workers' applications were denied because of uncorrected deficiencies; four workers' applications were denied as untimely; and one worker's denial appeal was dismissed as untimely.

At the hearing of the appeal, it was found that Seman filed "grossly deficient" applications for workers Eddie S. Saturno, Danilo S.B. Geneblazo, Marissa M. Gavino, Rhodelita Monsanto, and Floro S. Derexes.

Cody said the applications were missing some or all of the following documents: a certified job vacancy announcement, valid business license, statement of compliance, employer's agreement, original surety bond, cash bond, valid health certificate, and business establishment inspection.

Seman failed to correct many deficiencies for months

after she was informed about them. She also testified that she cannot afford cash bonds for these workers.

Noting that the employees were not at fault in the matter, Cody allowed the workers to seek new employers within 45 days, or until Dec. 13, 2004.

Also given transfer relief was worker Domingo P. Naulgan, whose application was filed one day late. "It would be unduly harsh to require Mr. Naulgan to depart the CNMI based on his employer missing the filing deadline by one day," Cody said.

The four other workers, however, were given 30 days to leave the CNMI.

Of these workers, three were found to have worked for Seman without a permit, for periods ranging from a year to nearly three years. They are Christopher M. Monsanto, Rogel R. Serrano, and Elmer J. Lucas.

The other worker—Veronica J. Jorda—was also ordered to depart the Commonwealth because she failed to appeal the denial of her permit application.

cation until one year and four months later.

Labor laws give involved parties only 15 days to appeal a denial.

The hearing office also found that Jorda worked for Seman without a permit for two years.

Cody ordered Seman to provide airline tickets for the four workers who were ordered to depart.

He also instructed the Division of Labor to investigate the employer, who expressed no remorse for her conduct.

"On the contrary, she stated that she had done nothing wrong because, by employing these workers, she had enabled them to earn money and remain in the CNMI," Cody said. "This employer has demonstrated by both her conduct and attitude a blatant disregard of the CNMI's labor laws and regulations."

Further, Cody noted that after the hearing, two of Seman's workers submitted a letter informing the Hearing Office that they are owed certain unpaid wages.

GES salutes carnival supporters

Garapan Elementary School extends its appreciation to the community members, parent-teachers association, staff and teachers, and student council for their show of Mallard spirit during the Halloween Carnival.

As always, the school family came together to provide a night of fun and entertainment that went to benefit the students of GES.

The following are important GES dates for the remainder of November:

Nov. 6-NJFL @ Kobler Elementary
Nov. 1-11-CNMI Recycles Contest
Nov. 10-GES Pizza Hut Night
Nov. 11-Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 13-PGFC @ Kobler Elementary
Nov. 17-PTA meeting @ 6:00 pm, cafeteria
Nov. 18—"A night with the mallards" Community Dinner
Nov. 19-2nd quarter mid progress report day
Nov. 24-Education Day-student holiday
Nov. 25 to 26-Thanksgiving break

OVR NOTICE



Hopwood Junior High celebrate Cultural Day

Over 840 students of Hopwood Junior High School, their teachers and parents, and Public School System officials celebrated Cultural Day at the school's campus last Oct. 10.

The Cultural Day committee, made up of teachers, counselors, staff and of course, hundreds of students, put on an outstanding display of cultural and community spirit.

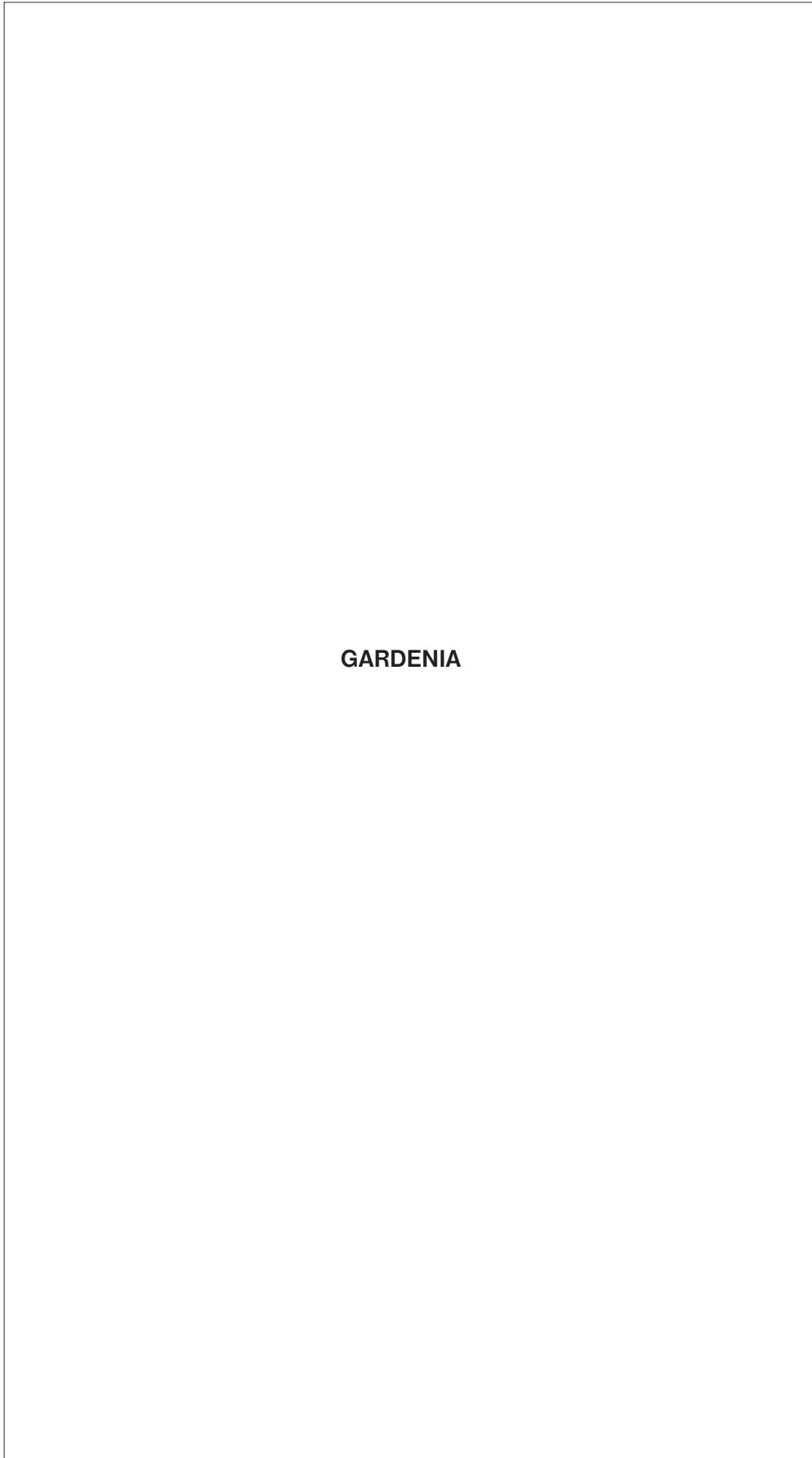
The Department of Public Safety-DARE, school resource officers, and part of their command structure also added to the success of the event.



Hopwood Junior High School would like to thank these officers, the parents, and members of the community for their outstanding support in making the Cultural Day a huge, safe and fun day.

Hopwood Junior High School is looking forward for another great event next year.

Island Snapshots



GARDENIA

Business

ROTARY CLUB
+BLUE

Bush stands by rejection of Kyoto treaty

By JOHN HEILPRIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush is holding fast to his rejection of mandatory curbs on greenhouse gases that are blamed for global warming, despite a fresh report from 300 scientists in the United States and seven other nations that shows Arctic temperatures are rising.

This week, a four-year study of the Arctic will document that the region is warming rapidly, affecting global climates.

Scientists project that industrial gases such as carbon dioxide will make the Arctic warmer still, which would raise the level of the seas and make the earth hotter. The world's atmosphere now includes about 380 parts per million of carbon dioxide, compared with 280 parts per million in 1800, according to scientists.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the Kyoto international

climate treaty last week, which puts it into effect early next year without U.S. participation. The treaty requires industrial nations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases below 1990 levels.

"President Bush strongly opposes any treaty or policy that would cause the loss of a single American job, let alone the nearly 5 million jobs Kyoto would have cost," said James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Headed into his second term, Bush continues to believe he "made the right leadership choice" by repudiating the U.N.-sponsored pact negotiated in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, Connaughton said.

Former President Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, negotiated the treaty for the United States and had a major role in its final form.

"Kyoto was a bad treaty for the United States," said Mike Leavitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Leavitt added in an interview Friday that climate change is not an issue the administration dismisses. "I know that it is of importance to the president that we continue to make progress," he said.

So far, Bush's policy has amounted to spending a few billion dollars each year on research.



Gore signed the treaty in 1997, but it never was ratified by the Republican-controlled Senate. Bush said it also should have included developing countries such as China and India, which are major polluters.

Achieving the treaty's target will be difficult without participation by the United States, which accounted for 36 percent of the industrialized nations' carbon dioxide emissions in 1990. Russia accounted for 17 percent.

Critics say Bush's opposition is ironic because the treaty was modeled after the market-based U.S. program for cutting acid rain created in 1990 by Bush's father and often pointed to by the current administration as a success story.

"Indeed, it would be very, very surprising if this instrument were not used by the people who invented it," Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the Kenya-based U.N. Environment Program, said in an interview.

Annie Petsonk, a lawyer for New York-based Environmental Defense, a nonprofit group that says it is dedicated to protecting the environment, said the United States will be left isolated on the biggest environmental challenge of the century. She said the White House estimates of Kyoto's costs do not appear to include the cost savings from trading pollution rights.

White House officials contend the drastic cuts in pollution that the treaty would have imposed on the United States would have cost nearly \$400 billion and almost 5 million jobs. Many would have shifted to other countries that were not obligated to reduce their pollution levels, the Bush administration says.

Russia, by contrast, can increase its pollution substantially under the treaty with a positive rather than detrimental impact on its job market, the officials say.

From 1990 to 2002, U.S. greenhouse gases increased 13.1 percent while Russian greenhouse gases decreased 38.5 percent, partly because of shrinkage in its industrial base after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to

the latest U.N. figures.

Global warming is a recurring theme that punctuated the start of Bush's terms in office.

In March 2001 Bush broke his campaign promise to regulate carbon emissions and withdrew the United States from the Kyoto treaty, which seeks to slow global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Georgia arms dealer awarded \$3.6 million

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP)—A jury has awarded an international arms dealer \$3.6 million in damages, after he accused Boeing Co. of renegeing on a deal to buy two Russian-made missile launchers and ruining his reputation among other potential customers.

Friday's judgment gave Milton Blane, owner of Cumming-based Blane International Group Inc., \$3.5 million in punitive damages and \$100,000 in compensation for the missile launchers Boeing allegedly had intended to resell to the U.S. Navy.

In 1999, Blane approached the giant Chicago-based military contractor and offered to broker a deal with Russia for air-to-surface missiles that were available for purchase after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to court documents.

Boeing was interested, but first asked Blane to arrange the purchase of two Russian-made missile launchers, apparently to make him "prove what he could do" before getting a larger order, said Blane's attorney, Lawrence Newlin.

The company backed out of its agreement to pay \$80,000 for the missile launchers, then proceeded to discredit Blane after he filed the lawsuit in 2002, Newlin said. The company wrote at least three letters to Ukrainian officials branding Blane an illegal arms dealer, he said.

Blane claimed the smear campaign cost him at least \$27 million in lost business.

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon Wireless is buying cellular capacity for 23 markets from bankrupt NextWave Telecom Inc. for \$3 billion, ending the government's long tug-of-war over the never-used licenses and bolstering Verizon against a big new rival created by the merger of Cingular Wireless and AT&T Wireless.

The deal announced Friday gives Verizon Wireless big chunks of additional capacity to handle a growing subscriber base in key markets where it already has its own network, including New York City, Boston, Los Angeles and Washington. It also gives the company its first cellular spectrum in Tulsa, Okla., where it has relied on another carrier's network to provide service.

The licenses represent the last of the cellular spectrum won eight years ago by NextWave with bids totaling \$4.7 billion in a series of auctions by the Federal Communications Commission.

The deal will bring the FCC's final recovery from the affair to a little more than \$4 billion, including nearly \$1.7 billion in cash and \$2.34 billion worth of returned spectrum which the agency can now auction anew for considerably more money.

After an initial downpayment of a half-billion dollars, NextWave quickly defaulted on its debt to the FCC. The ensuing

legal tussle went all the way to the Supreme Court as the government failed in an attempt to repossess the licenses and then re-auction them for three times their original worth.

The deal with Verizon, which requires approval of the FCC, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and antitrust regulators at the U.S. Justice Department, follows a settlement reached in April resolving all disputes between the company and the FCC, the main creditor in the bankruptcy case.

The FCC will get only about \$72 million from the \$3 billion Verizon is paying because the FCC had already received most of what it was entitled to under the April deal.

About \$4.2 billion from

Friday's agreement and a series of smaller deals reached earlier this year goes to NextWave investors and other creditors, including parties who've put in money during the multiyear legal dispute and bankruptcy. While it is now officially leaving the cell phone business without ever having launched any services, NextWave is selling broadband data services over other spectrum it owns.

Early this year, NextWave sold some licenses to Cingular Wireless for \$1.4 billion, of which the FCC received \$714 million. Last week, NextWave completed the sale of two Flori-

da licenses to MetroPCS for \$43 million and a portion of its New York spectrum to Verizon for \$930 million, with about \$398 million going to the FCC.

The 10 and 20 megahertz licenses being acquired by Verizon cover markets where 73 million people live.

As a rough yardstick, 10 MHz of spectrum provides enough capacity for a single cell tower to handle 1,000 simultaneous phone calls, according to Tad Neely, an industry analyst for the research firm RHK.

So, for example, the acquisition of an additional 10 MHz in Los Angeles will increase Verizon's capacity there by nearly a third to a total of 45 MHz - possibly enough for each cell tower to carry about 4,500 calls.

But even with the added spectrum, Verizon's capacity still trails in many markets compared with Cingular. With the completion of its \$41 billion purchase of AT&T Wireless Services Inc. last week, Cingular boosted its holdings in Los Angeles and several other major cities to 65 MHz.

However, thanks to the technology it uses, Verizon gets more out of its spectrum for both voice calls and wireless data services. That's a crucial factor because both Verizon and Cingular are determined to drive up revenues with bandwidth-hungry services such as

Verizon Wireless to buy NextWave licenses

tin Dunsby, general manager of global services for Openwave Systems Inc. "The big thing driving the need for capacity is

"Each active data user equals many times the network load of an active voice user," said Mar-

STAYWELL
+BLUE

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 313

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Kyoto ratification

Following Russian President Vladimir Putin's long-awaited signature Friday, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change will finally go into effect. Putin has not decided to ratify the treaty because his compatriots suddenly saw the light and decided to become environmentalists, although some will try to portray it that way. In fact, the Russians bargained hard, winning European endorsement for World Trade Organization membership in exchange for their signature. Moreover, Russia will gain financially from the treaty, because it is based on a requirement that signatories reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Russia's industrial output has collapsed since then, along with greenhouse gas emissions. No regulation, taxes or pollution controls are necessary.

In this sense, Russia is not alone. Britain, which has pushed hard for ratification of the treaty, also stands to gain, thanks to the country's move away from coal. China and India, which ratified it, are not, as "developing countries," required to meet any emissions targets at all. The United States, by contrast, would find compliance with the treaty extremely expensive: Meeting the targets here as well as in some other countries, such as Canada and Japan, would almost certainly reduce economic growth. Yet even advocates concede that the treaty will have virtually no effect on global warming. Its international impact is too narrow, particularly because there is no clear sanction for countries that do not meet their global obligations. For those reasons, it is hardly surprising that the Senate refused to ratify the Kyoto treaty. It makes no sense to sign a mostly symbolic treaty, to pay a huge economic cost and to get only a negligible environmental gain in return, particularly when it isn't clear that others are going to comply.

None of which is to say that the Bush administration was right to walk away from the negotiating table. The administration's abrupt abandonment of the treaty in 2001 was bad diplomacy, and it has cast a pall over transatlantic relations ever since. But there is a chance to regain some ground during further rounds of the Kyoto process that are due to take place over the next several years. Entering his second term, the president has a fresh opportunity to state clearly that America is interested in halting global warming and to advocate more equitable and possibly more unorthodox means to do so. An international effort to find alternatives to fossil fuels, for example, could ultimately prove far more beneficial than the Kyoto Protocol. But that will be possible only if the president decides he cares enough about the issue, and enough about diplomacy, to remain at the table.

(c) 2004, The Washington Post

KIRK
© 2004 Kirk Anderson
www.kirkanderson.com

The Arafat enigma

By ROBERT MALLEY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

My final meeting with Yasser Arafat took place barely a few weeks ago, in the rubble of his headquarters, over a frugal and flavorless dinner of soup and vegetables. He was outfitted in his trademark military garb, a pile of documents awaiting his signature, aides and colleagues standing by for his attention. The scene was vintage Arafat: the image of armed resistance (when Israel could effortlessly have struck him at moment's notice); the illusion of orderly decision-making (when chaos had long replaced governance); and above all, the reality of personal power. Among his visitors that evening were several of his associates, some of whom had only recently challenged the Palestinian leader. That night, they were doing the talking, Arafat feigning to listen. It was clear who was subordinate and who was boss.

For American policymakers, Arafat's ability to exercise this kind of power over several decades and despite serial defeats was a cause of constant bafflement and a source of repeated misjudgments. They thought he would be assessed based on how well he governed and what he achieved. On both counts they found him wanting and expected Palestinians to follow suit. Palestinians did not—not out of blindness to his failings, which they experienced more acutely than most, but rather, out of a sense that Arafat literally embodied the nation. In the eyes of countless Palestinians, he had taken a dispersed, stateless people, given them dignity and a name, put them on the map, evaded recurring attempts at Arab subjugation and both built and preserved a national movement. For that, they were prepared to forgive in abundance and in perpetuity. As one Palestinian told me, "his people will always flock to him because he did not sell out—which compensates for the fact that he did not deliver."

Even as Arafat lay dying in France last week, his portrait hung over an empty chair in a meeting of the Fatah movement leadership—just as his absence will hang over those seeking to fill his place.

Arafat performed not so much through leadership as through representation, yet another object of U.S. puzzlement. He did not seek to impose decisions, govern through force or subdue rivals via bloodshed. He was the creation more than the creator of Palestinian politics, the expression of an ethereal national consensus, the most fluent reader of Palestinian possibilities and limitations. His personification of the Palestinian political center of gravity was his political currency, which is why he resisted calls to crack down on the violent acts of Hamas or Islamic Jihad or compel order, and it's why, even as he drew close to his last day, he feared Israel's withdrawal from Gaza might give rise to a competing power basis. The flip side was that chaotic pluralism and managed turmoil were his instruments of choice. They gave him maximum maneuvering space, which he considered vital to either maintaining his personal position or achieving Palestinian objectives—two goals that, alas, he barely and rarely distinguished.

The Palestinian leader never had a grand strategy. His life was the stuff of intuition and short-term political expediency. Hence his tortured relationship to peace and violence. Before most of his colleagues, Arafat believed in a peaceful, two-state solution; unlike some of them, he also believed that violence was needed to reach

that end. In his universe, regardless of formal pledges, there was no contradiction. Diplomacy and force formed part of a single, coherent continuum. Assessing long-term costs was foreign to his repertoire; if violence suited current needs, he would do little or nothing to oppose it.

Together, these traits shaped his infuriating negotiating schemes and maddening inability to make decisions. But these were ingredients that early on allowed him and the national movement to endure. Once learned, they were hard to forget. These traits followed him to his last hide-out, the battered Mugata to which he was confined for three years. There, he remained faithful to his guiding motto: Stand firm and sit still. In every Israeli or U.S. move, he discerned attempts to weaken him and divide the Palestinian nation. Again, in his mind national and personal interest blurred. If he found himself holed up in Ramallah with events accelerating in Gaza, things would happen without him, which meant against him, which meant to the detriment of the cause. If he could do nothing more than obstruct, that is what he would do. And he would, as he proved to me that last evening together, relish every moment of it.

How will the movement built by Arafat for Arafat survive without Arafat? Even before the Palestinian leader left his compound, the glue that held all together had begun to dissolve. Managed chaos was becoming anarchic havoc, with a profusion of new centers of power—families, clans, armed militias—nominally loyal to Arafat, actually beholden to no one. His death will leave a gaping hole that he spent a lifetime making sure would not—could not—be filled. There are potential heirs, but for the most part their legitimacy, unlike his, is derivative, incomplete and dependent on him. Arafat retained personal, organizational, historic and democratic credentials; others did not. Without him, they are all weakened, and the pluralism Arafat encouraged to bolster his own power will undercut the power of any who dares succeed him.

It won't be easy for Palestinians to shift from one mode of political organization and loyalty to another, amidst a sense of unprecedented loss, continued conflict and worsening economic plight. Mahmoud Abbas and Ahmed Qureia are emerging as successors—perhaps the only heirs with institutional status within the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the historical pedigree of having spent decades at Arafat's side. But with time, different groups likely will assert themselves: Hamas to challenge the secular leadership, one offshoot of Fatah to confront the other, and the younger generation to challenge the older. Much will depend on the Palestinians' ability to forge a collective leadership that incorporates Hamas. And much will depend on whether the United States can muster the political wisdom to shy away from Palestinian succession battles and the political courage to put forward a fair and viable Israeli-Palestinian deal.

In the end, Arafat had the symbolic value and governing skills of a political icon—which meant a lot and very little simultaneously. Arafat liked to think of himself as the father of the nation. The new leaders need to establish credibility and maintain a degree of unity lest that nation end up little more than a hapless orphan.

The author is the director of the Middle East and North Africa program at the International Crisis Group. He was a special assistant to President Clinton for Arab-Israeli affairs.

ANOTHER*From Page 11*

a sewing needle in your sewing kit, perhaps you even look suspicious, you know from the Middle East, or you are even a "loud" talking person after waiting for an hour in line and then this big huge guy carrying a pistol comes up to you. It is already happening. Talk about

human rights. No wonder there are so many lawyers right now. Anyway there will be plenty of military folks to keep everyone morally correct and morally right. Don't worry so much!

After all the things GW and his posse will do in these next four years, America will then be in such a sad state of affairs that we will become just another third-rate country. We will be

broke, with no Social Security for the young, extremely high medical costs, and the environment will be denuded for its resources.

Just think, we will be too poor to take on the role of the world's policemen, too broke to fight another war, and so far in debt that we can rest a while, like other countries. Take a back seat and try to clean up the mess GW got us in.

So I say America will get what it deserves—unless we all take a deep breath, stop being angry, and go out and fight the good fight for another day. Bush falsely declared the "war is over" from the deck of that carrier. I think Iraq has proven him wrong every single day so far. I say the war isn't over and we need to fight one "battle" at a time. At least some of us think it is

still a democracy after all. Now let's go out and make it right for the 2008 election. I refuse to give up so easily. His "political capital" as he calls it is just another false claim. He has nothing to spend and no morally correct mandate to impose upon us.

Phil Plaza
Saipan

GIG discotheque and Saipan Grand Hotel's Madonna disco attracted a variety of impersonators in contests for the best Halloween costume yesterday night.

Madonna filled the stage with seven participants competing for the sexiest, scariest, and most original costume.

The participants stood center

stage, while the crowd cheered on their favorite costumed participant. Judges were on hand to make the final decision for the winners in the three categories.

"Storm" of X-Men fame was recognized as the sexiest costume, while "Catwoman" took the most original costume. On the other hand, "Titanic priest"

Roderick Hernandez received the scariest costume award.

Winners were given cash prizes, Miller Lite merchandise, T-shirts, and IT & E phone cards among others.

Sponsors for the bash included Power 99 FM, Pacific Distributors Inc., and IT & E among others.

In a similar event, Microl

Distributors hosted a Halloween bash that took place at GIG Discotheque. A variety of impersonators rushed into the club to take part in the contest which awarded \$500 to the winner.

Taking home first place was crowd favorite "Joanne", who came dressed as a Las Vegas showgirl. (*Cassie DLG Fejeran*)



Asia

Karzai to crack down on warlords, drugs

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

AP WRITER

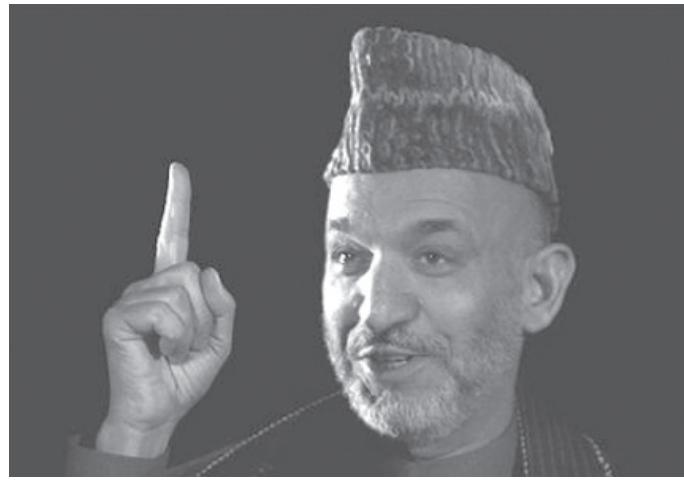
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Hamid Karzai pledged Thursday to use his five-year term as Afghanistan's first elected president to crack down on warlords and the re-emerging country's booming drug economy.

Accepting his victory in the historic Oct. 9 ballot, he also offered an olive branch to the Taliban, even as an offshoot of the former ruling militia threatened to kill three kidnapped U.N. workers who helped organize the vote.

"The Afghan people have placed their trust in us, for which we are very grateful," Karzai said in the grounds of his bomb-damaged Kabul palace, flanked by his two smiling running-mates and circled by bodyguards. "They voted for a government based on laws and institutions, and that is what we are going to provide."

Karzai has said that smashing Afghanistan's opium and heroin smugglers will be his top priority, and the key to reining in warlords resisting the feeble authority of the central government.

He has also pledged to clear his Cabinet of faction leaders who helped the United States oust the Taliban three years ago but have proved to be dead-



AP
Afghan President Hamid Karzai answers a question during a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2004.

weights in office.

Asked if any warlords or government officials believed to profit from drugs would survive the purge, Karzai said: "There will not be any private militia forces in Afghanistan."

"There will definitely, definitely not be any drug thing in Afghanistan," he said. "We're going to be dedicated, strong in working against that."

He said he would not announce his Cabinet before his inauguration in December.

But he renewed an offer to followers of the Taliban—with the exception of a few dozen top fugitives—"to come and

participate in the rebuilding of this country."

"The rest of them, thousands of them, they are sons of this earth, they are welcome," he said.

Election officials declared Karzai the winner Wednesday after more than three weeks of laborious counting and arguments about whether he had cheated his way to victory.

Yunus Qanooni, who finished second with 16 percent, compared with Karzai's 55 percent, accepted the result just hours before Karzai made his televised acceptance speech.

"For me, Afghanistan's national interests are the most im-

Musharraf congratulates Karzai in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistan's president promised newly elected Afghan leader Hamid Karzai on Saturday to wage a common struggle against terrorism and to provide more help in restoring Afghanistan's wrecked economy.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf was the first foreign leader to visit Kabul and offer his congratulations since Karzai was declared the winner of Afghanistan's Oct. 9 presidential ballot on Thursday.

"The success of fighting terrorism in Afghanistan is Pakistan's success, and our success in Pakistan will be Afghanistan's success," Musharraf said after talks in Karzai's presidential palace.

"I was telling my brother,

there is no doubt in our minds that we both have to succeed," Pakistan's military leader said.

The daylong visit is the latest sign of an upturn in relations between the Asian neighbors which have repeatedly soured over suspicions that Taliban militants find refuge on Pakistani soil.

Islamabad angrily denies the charge.

However, it won praise from the U.S. military for posting extra troops along the rugged border to stop militants infiltrating Afghanistan during the vote.

"We are together in the fight against terrorism, and we'll fight it offensively and cooperate in all manners," Musharraf said.

Musharraf said Pakistan

had already pledged \$100 million for Afghan projects including road building, and said it was also looking at running power lines and a railway across the border.

Karzai welcomed Musharraf with military honors and said he was "proud" he had come so quickly to congratulate him.

"It shows that the Pakistani people and government are very happy with the stabilization and reconstruction process in Afghanistan," Karzai said.

Pakistan was one of the key supporters of the Taliban but Musharraf switched sides after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. Karzai was installed as the country's leader after the Islamic militia was ousted from power.

with the goal of doubling the income of Afghans by 2009.

But any attempt to focus on the economy will be complicated by the challenge of confronting warlords, drug traffickers and Taliban militants all at the same time.

Karzai denounced as "terrorist elements" an armed group who kidnapped three foreign election workers in Kabul a week ago.

Afghan hostage talks postponed a day

in trying to get a resolution."

"The health of the (election) workers is with the kidnappers," Nelson said. "They need to make sure they safeguard their health and the best way to do that is to return them safely to the United Nations."

Karzai and visiting Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini on Saturday condemned the hostage-taking.

"We will do our best to solve this issue and to bring back the hostages to their families as soon as possible," Karzai said.

Karzai also received a visit Saturday from Pakistan's military president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who pledged a common fight against terrorist groups, including better intelligence-sharing.

Still, Musharraf didn't mention the hostage crisis directly. His relations with Karzai have been strained by suspicions that Taliban rebels find sanctuaries in Pakistan.

"The success of fighting terrorism in Afghanistan is Pakistan's success, and our success in Pakistan will be Afghanistan's success," Musharraf said after talks in Karzai's presidential palace.

"I was telling my brother, there is no doubt in our minds that we both have to succeed," he said.

14 killed in fresh violence in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—

As the home minister visited the Indian portion of Kashmir, suspected Islamic militants exploded a bomb and fought gunbattles with government forces Saturday, killing at least 14 militants and soldiers.

The rebels blew up a truck carrying soldiers, killing two of them and wounding six others, in the crowded Lal Mandi neighborhood of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

India's border guards killed eight suspected rebels as they tried to sneak into the Indian-held Kashmir from Pakistani territory, said Lt. Gen. Ashok Kapoor, an army corps commander.

India's Home Minister Shivraj Patil arrived in the Kashmir Valley Saturday on his first visit since the Congress party won power in May, to prepare for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit later this month.

Patil told reporters that the security situation in the region "has changed for the better and the government of India is ready to hold talks with separatists without any precondition."

However, separatist groups have refused to meet Patil until India allows them to visit Pakistan and meet leaders of the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

Patil said he was not opposed to their demand, but "if they want to go (to Pakistan) they will have to go through proper channels, and their request will be looked into seriously."

Patil met with state ministers, lawmakers and army and police officers in Srinagar. On Sunday, he plans to inspect the border fencing in the Jammu region.

Meanwhile, two suspected rebels were killed in a separate gun battle with soldiers who surrounded their hide-out in Minmargi, a village nearly 50 miles north of Srinagar, said Lt. Col. V.K. Batra, the army spokesman.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming rebels and helping them to enter the Indian-held territory, a charge Islamabad denies.

Elsewhere, two suspected militants threw grenades and fired with automatic weapons as they entered a paramilitary camp in Sopore, killing a soldier and injuring four others, said Kashmir's police chief, Gopal Sharma. One militant also was killed.

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Militants threatening to kill three U.N. hostages said Saturday that talks with Afghan and U.N. officials had been postponed for another day.

President-elect Hamid Karzai renewed his condemnation of the abduction and received a promise from his visiting Pakistani counterpart of closer cooperation in combating terrorism.

Authorities have not confirmed any contact with Jaish-al Muslimeen, a Taliban splinter group demanding a U.N. pullout from Afghanistan and the release of Taliban prisoners.

Syed Khaled, a spokesman for the militants, initially said talks had begun Saturday at a secret location in southern Afghanistan. But he said later that an Afghan government delegation arrived too late.

"Our people thought the talks might continue late into the night, so the two sides agreed to hold them tomorrow," Khaled told The Associated Press by telephone. "We hope that the Afghan government delegation will be empowered to solve the issue quickly."

His claims could not be independently verified.



AP
Protesters hold lit candles during a rally outside the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila Thursday, Nov. 4, 2004 to pray for the safe release of Filipino hostages Angelito Nayan, a U.N. election worker in Afghanistan and Roberto Tarongoy, an accountant working for a Saudi construction company in Iraq.

The abduction of Annetta Flanigan of Northern Ireland, Angelito Nayan of the Philippines, and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo was the first of foreigners in Kabul since the Taliban was ousted in 2001.

The militants released a videotape of the hostages last Sunday, fueling concern that they are copying the tactics of their Iraqi counterparts. Still, Afghan officials suspect the little-known group had help from warlord militias or criminal gangs.

The kidnappers have repeatedly extended a deadline after

which they say they will decide whether to kill the hostages. They also demand that British troops leave Afghanistan and that the United States release Muslim inmates from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The U.S. military has volunteered to help in any rescue and said it was receiving daily government briefings.

Spokesman Maj. Scott Nelson said he couldn't give details of efforts to free the three "because things are too sensitive now." But he praised Afghan officials for "doing a good job

Bush seeks resumption of Nokor talks

By SANG-HUN CHOE
AP WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's leader and President Bush agreed to seek an early resumption of stalled six-nation talks aimed at curbing communist North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, President Roh Moo-hyun's office said in a statement Saturday.

Bush responded positively to the proposal Roh made during a 10-minute phone conversation late Friday, the president's office said. The South Korean president had called the American leader to congratulate him on his re-election and reconfirm the

Life in North Korea harsh for deserters

TOKYO (AP)—Far from finding a communist paradise, four American soldiers suspected of deserting to North Korea in the 1960s were forced to live together in a tiny house under constant surveillance, to scrounge for food and to study the works of "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung for up to 16 hours a day.

Two died before ever again seeing the outside world.

Shedding new light on a bizarre Cold War tale, former U.S. Army Sgt. Charles Jenkins told a court-martial this week that he and the others lived for years as a tightly knit—if not always harmonious—group honed by hardship, poverty and frequent beatings.

Jenkins surrendered to U.S. military authorities in September after nearly 40 years in the secretive Stalinist state. He was convicted of desertion and aiding the enemy and began serving a 30-day sentence on Wednesday.

His confession detailed decades of virtual imprisonment for himself and the others: Pvt. Larry A. Abshier of Urbana, Ill., who the military says went missing in 1962 at age 19; Cpl. Jerry W. Parrish of Morganfield, Ky., who is accused of deserting in 1963 at age 19; and James Dresnock of Richmond, Va., a private when he crossed into North Korea in 1962.

"Of the three other Americans who lived in North Korea with me, only Dresnock and I are left," Jenkins said in a dramatic statement read to the court by his military lawyer. A copy of the unsworn statement and another document outlining the reasons for his desertion were obtained by The Associated Press.

Jenkins, a native of Rich Square, N.C., said Parrish died in 1996 of an abdominal infection. Abshier died of a heart attack in 1983. Dresnock still lives in the North.

From shortly after he crossed into North Korea in 1965 until 1972, Jenkins said, he lived in a house with the other three men. He did not say why the others left their units.

Jenkins, however, confessed that he deserted on Jan. 5, 1965, because he was afraid of being shot patrolling the Demilitarized Zone and of being sent to Vietnam. Jenkins, now a frail 64-year-old, said he had intended to somehow return to the United States.

U.S.-South Korea alliance.

"President Roh suggested that the two heads of state work through close consultations and try to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue as a key project and pave the way for a turning point for peace on the Korean Peninsula and for the rest of the world," the statement said.

"The two leaders agreed that South Korea and the United States should make joint efforts to hold a next round of six-nation talks soon," it added.

Later Saturday, visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura told Roh that Japan will urge North Korea to accept an unconditional resumption of six-nation nuclear talks by the

end of the year when the two nations hold talks next week in Pyongyang, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

Three rounds of six-nation talks have been held in Beijing, without breakthroughs in international efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions. The six-nation nuclear negotiations involve the United States, two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia.

North Korea has yet to officially react to the election victory of Bush, whom it has condemned as "gangster" plotting to topple the Pyongyang regime.

But Han Song Ryol, deputy chief of North Korea's mission to the United Nations, said in an interview published Friday that the nuclear talks can resume

only if Bush retracts a hostile U.S. policy against the North.

Both U.S. and South Korean officials said they expected the North to return to the six-nation talks once the election was over. Some analysts believed the North was holding out for a possible victory by Bush challenger John Kerry, who was more open to bilateral U.S.-North Korean talks, as favored by Pyongyang.

Washington wants an immediate halt and U.N. inspections of North Korea's nuclear activities. It says it can consider security guarantees and economic aid if the freeze doesn't last long and is followed by a swift dismantling of nuclear facilities.



Emperor Akihito, right, and Empress Michiko talk to earthquake victims during their visit to a region still recovering from a powerful tremor last month in Nagaoka, northern Japan Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004.

Emperor visits Japan earthquake victims

TOKYO (AP)—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited victims of last month's devastating earthquake in northern Japan on Saturday as strong aftershocks continued to rumble through the region.

The imperial couple stopped at a high school gymnasium converted into an evacuation center, kneeling down to speak with victims huddled on the floor between piles of blankets, cardboard boxes and mats.

The royal visit appeared to buoy the spirits of evacuees at the center in hard-hit Nagaoka city. One woman wiped away tears as the empress offered words of comfort in television pictures broadcast by NHK.

Nagaoka—in Niigata prefecture—suffered a magnitude-6.8 quake on Oct. 23 and a series of large aftershocks. The quakes killed 39 people and injured more than 2,000.

Last month's tremor was the dead-

liest to hit Japan since 1995, when a magnitude-7.2 tremor killed 6,000 people in the western city of Kobe.

More than 34,000 people were in emergency shelters in Niigata on Saturday because their homes were destroyed in the disaster, according to the state government. Many also fear returning to their homes with aftershocks continuing.

Japan, which rests atop several tectonic plates, is among the world's most earthquake-prone countries.

ASIAN Briefs

Beijing man buys phone number for \$215,000

BEIJING (AP)—A Beijing man has paid \$215,000 for the ultimate in lucky cell phone numbers—133-3333-3333.

The phone number was sold this week at an auction in the Chinese capital, newspapers reported Saturday.

Chinese tradition considers 3 a lucky number and groups of 3's even luckier. Though the number 8 is the luckiest, all Chinese cell phone numbers begin with "13," making it impossible to make a number with all 8's.

The reports by the Beijing Times and Beijing Morning Post didn't identify the buyer. Phone calls to the number on Saturday weren't answered.

Hotels, restaurants and other businesses in China regularly try to obtain phone numbers with groups of 8's. Those that can't wind up settling for groups of other numbers.

Indonesian official freed from prison

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The only Indonesian official to be punished for violence that killed up to 2,000 East Timorese in 1999 has been released from prison, following a court decision that overturned his conviction, officials said.

Abilio Jose Soares, East Timor's former governor, left Jakarta's Cipinang prison late Friday, saying "the Supreme Court decision has put the law on its right track."

"Now, I only wish to live with my family as a good citizen," he told reporters.

The acquittal has dismayed rights activists who urged Jakarta to punish those responsible.

Soares had been charged in the violence that erupted after a U.N.-sponsored referendum in which East Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia. Indonesian troops and their militia proxies went on a rampage after their side lost the plebiscite.

Soares—who is ethnic East Timorese—was found guilty in 2002 of failing to prevent the bloodshed and began serving a three-year sentence in July this year.

He filed a judicial review of his case with the Supreme Court, which determined that he had no security role in East Timor.

Indonesia was under intense pressure to punish those responsible for the violence. It charged 18 people—most from its police and military—with human rights crimes in a special tribunal.

Twelve defendants were acquitted. Three others have had their sentences overturned on appeal. Appeals in the cases of the two remaining defendants are expected soon.

World

crm

mva

credit union

Health & Fitness

Feds: Obesity raising airline fuel costs

By DANIEL YEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Heavy suitcases aren't the only things weighing down airplanes and requiring them to burn more fuel, pushing up the cost of flights. A new government study reveals that airlines increasingly have to worry more about the weight of their passengers.

America's growing waistlines are hurting the bottom lines of airline companies as the extra pounds on passengers are causing a drag on planes. Heavier fliers have created heftier fuel costs, according to the government study.

Through the 1990s, the average weight of Americans increased by 10 pounds, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The extra weight caused airlines to spend \$275 million to burn 350 million more gallons of fuel in 2000 just to carry the additional weight of Americans, the federal agency estimated in a recent issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

"The obesity epidemic has unexpected consequences beyond direct health effects," said Dr. Deron Burton of the CDC. "Our goal was to highlight one area that had not been looked at before."

The extra fuel burned also had an environmental impact, as an estimated 3.8 million extra tons of carbon dioxide were released into the air, according to the study.

The agency said its calculations are rough estimates, issued to highlight previously undocumented consequences of the ongoing obesity epidemic.

The estimates were calculated by determining how much fuel the 10



extra pounds of weight per passenger represented in Department of Transportation airline statistics, Burton said.

Obesity is a life-or-death struggle in the United States, the underlying cause of 400,000 deaths in 2000, a 33 percent jump from 1990. If current trends persist, it will become the nation's No. 1 cause of preventable death, the

CDC said earlier this year.

More than half—56 percent—of U.S. adults were overweight or obese in the early 1990s, according to a CDC survey. That rose to 65 percent in a similar survey done from 1999 to 2002.

Although the Air Transport Association of America has not yet validated the CDC data, spokesman Jack

Evans said the health agency's appraisal "does not sound out of the realm of reality."

With most airlines reporting losses blamed partly on record-high fuel costs, everything on an airplane is now a weighty issue. Airlines are doing everything they can to lighten the load on all aircraft, from wide-body jets to turboprops.

Bulky magazines have gone out the door. Metal forks and spoons have been replaced with plastic. Large carry-ons are being scrutinized and even heavy materials that used to make up airplane seats are being replaced with plastic and other lightweight materials.

"We're dealing in a world of small numbers—even though it has a very incremental impact" to reduce a 60- to 120-ton aircraft's weight by bumping off a few magazines, Evans said. "When you consider airlines are flying millions of miles, it adds up over time."

Although passenger bulk has been an issue in the past—Dallas-based Southwest Airlines requires large people to buy a second seat for passenger safety and comfort—Evans says it's not likely airlines will scrutinize how much passengers weigh in the future. Instead, they are trying to do a better job of estimating passenger weight in figuring out how much fuel they need for a flight.

Seattle-based Alaska Airlines now calculates the weight of children on flights, instead of using adult-weight formulas for all passengers, Evans said.

"Just like we don't control the costs of our fuel, we don't control the weights of our passengers," he said. "Passengers gain weight, but airlines are the ones that go on a diet. It's part of the conundrum we face right now."

New measures aim to improve drug safety

By DIEDTRA HENDERSON
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Buffeted by criticism, the Food and Drug Administration said Friday that it would appoint a director of drug safety and take other actions to assure the safety of medications it approves.

As sick and elderly Americans competed in lotteries for scarce flu vaccine, members of Congress chided the FDA for relying on the word of Chiron Corp., the vaccine's manufacturer, rather than investigating as aggressively as British regulators.

Critics also have charged the FDA ignored risks associated with antidepressants and the blockbuster drug Vioxx, then intimidated its own reviewers when they pointed to safety problems in both cases.

The Senate Finance Committee, one of three Congressional panels investigating the FDA, sought from the agency Friday a year's worth of correspondence between the agency and Merck & Co. Inc., Vioxx's manufac-

turer. Investigators suspect the agency crumbled under intense lobbying and placed cardiovascular risks less prominently on Vioxx's label in 2002.

"The warning is in there. It's a matter of whether it's effective or effectively buried," a committee aide said.

FDA spokeswoman Kathleen K. Quinn, provided by e-mail a copy of the letter from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the committee chairman, declined comment.

Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, told reporters the highly publicized disagreements on Vioxx and antidepressants were uncommon. The episodes don't merit tweaking the agency's culture to ensure dissenting views are heard.

"It's a rarity. It doesn't represent the culture, so we don't really think there is a need for an overwhelming cultural change," Galson said.

However, Dr. Eric Topol, the Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who pointed to increased cardiovascular risks with Vioxx in 2001, said he's spoken to at

least three other FDA researchers who complained the agency minimized their concerns about the drug.

"There has been a climate there ... of suppression of ideas and concerns," Topol said.

Lester M. Crawford, acting FDA commissioner, said the agency's stamp of approval means American drugs are the world's safest. "The measures we are taking are designed to strengthen this quality as well as our consumers' confidence that FDA's processes ensure the highest protection of the public health," he said in a statement.

Galson said the FDA will name a director of the Office of Drug Safety, vacant since October 2003, to oversee the safety of drugs after their approval.

In addition, the agency is asking the Institute of Medicine to study whether improvements are needed to tease out more about a drug's side effects as it comes into more widespread use. The study also will examine whether the agency is too close to the drug industry to regulate it effectively.

The institute is an arm of the National Academy of Science, which advises the government on scientific matters.

"We think most of the charges that have been leveled are just not accurate," Galson said.

Still, Dr. Wayne A. Ray, a Vanderbilt professor of preventive medicine, said the agency faces an internal conflict. One arm approves drugs, while the drug safety office tests the rigor of those decisions.

"Once the people in the reviewing decision approve a drug, there is a natural human tendency to not confront information that shows that decision might be faulty," Ray said, renewing a call for an independent drug safety board.

To bridge differences among its scientific reviewers, the agency said it would convene an independent panel to review documents and make recommendations.

Acting commissioner Crawford said the FDA's clinical reviewers and epidemiologists "evaluate and respond to identified concerns. This

is what occurred recently with antidepressants and Vioxx."

Yet, in both cases reviewers told members of Congress they faced resistance within the agency after raising alarms.

Consumer advocate Sidney Wolfe said he was cynical that Crawford would make meaningful changes, such as correcting the power imbalance that hobbles the drug safety office and making public dissenting reviewers' comments. "This is an attempt to put up a cosmetic fix to a serious problem."

This week, the FDA released a Sept. 30 memo from David Graham, the associate director for science, that said Vioxx safety concerns continued to mount after 2000. Besides heightened cardiovascular risks, the drug was linked to "significantly increased" risk of hospitalization for gastrointestinal bleeding.

Also, the editor of the journal *The Lancet* this week pointed to "lethal weaknesses" in FDA's regulatory oversight.

Life & Style



By JOE WEINDL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Comments? E-mail Weindl at
joewatchesmovies@yahoo.com.*

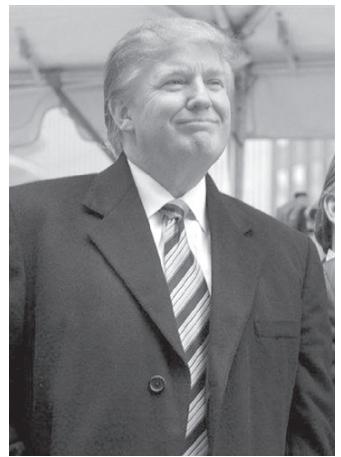
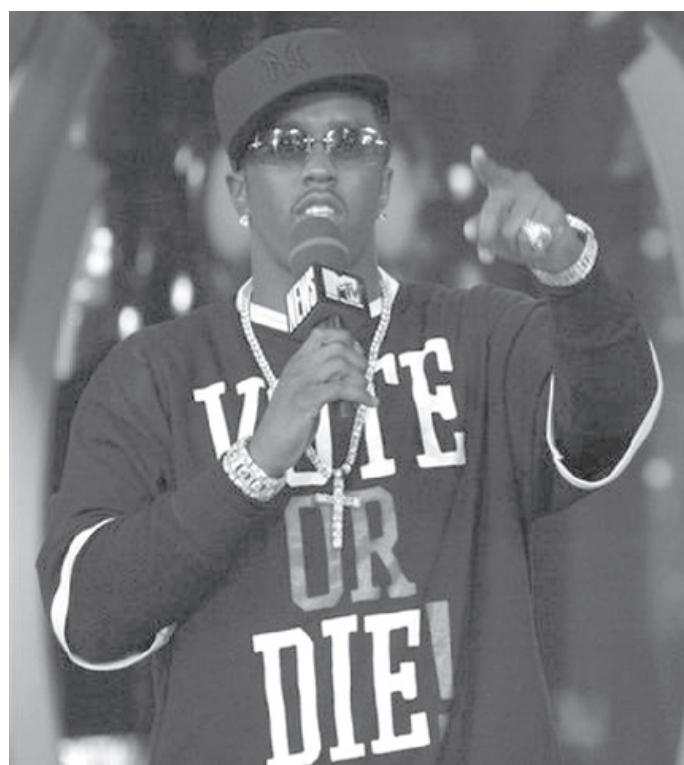


P. Diddy's group will stay involved

NEW YORK (AP)—P. Diddy's "Vote or Die!" initiative lives on. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, who started the group Citizen Change to increase voter turnout among young people for the Nov. 2 presidential election, told The Associated Press the group will continue to be involved in politics.

"This is phase one, step one for us to get people engaged," said Combs, who celebrated his 35th birthday on Thursday. "I'm trying to set up an infrastructure of empowerment and understanding power."

The group—with the slogan "Vote or Die!"—enlisted celebrities such as Mary J. Blige, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ben Affleck to boost the youth vote, and in the last days of the campaign, charted a jet to visit swing states.



Donald Trump listens to ceremonies Thursday, Oct. 28, 2004, in Chicago, for the start of the demolition of the old Chicago Sun-Times building. AP

Lost Beatles tape may steal AMA Show

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's American Music Awards will feature stars such as Usher, Alicia Keys, Gwen Stefani and Rod Stewart, but the most talked-about moment might come from the Beatles. The show plans to air a 2 1/2-minute tape from 1964 that was recently discovered.

"We've got a wonderful old... tape that's been lost for 40 years that nobody's seen since it first aired featuring the Beatles singing 'She Loves You' and 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand,'" producer Dick Clark told *The Associated Press* this week. "It was an English show that aired here that for some reason or another went into a trunk somewhere."

Stefani is set to open the Nov. 14 show, which will air live on ABC from Los Angeles. Janet Jackson will introduce Keys and Usher. Other performers include "American Idol" winner Fantasia, Kenny Chesney and Snoop Dogg and Pharrell.

And in case you're wondering—after Ashlee Simpson's recent lip-synching controversy on "Saturday Night Live"—Clark told the *AP* that all performers will be "live, or live to musical track."

Exit polls showed fewer than one in 10 voters Tuesday were ages 18 to 24, about the same proportion of the electorate as in 2000. However, since voter turnout was higher overall, more young people actually voted.

"I think it's obvious that the youth voter turnout increased," the hip-hop mogul said. "You gotta understand, this community was going backward, it wasn't going forward. This was a community that was going the other way, getting disinterested. We were effective enough to turn them around."

Music artist Sean "P. Diddy" Combs makes an appearance on the Choose or Loose takeover edition of *Total Request Live* in this Nov. 2, 2004 file photo at the MTV studios in New York. AP

Bow tie-wearer tossed from 'Apprentice'

NEW YORK (AP)—Apparently, Donald Trump doesn't like bow ties. Real estate developer and frequent bow tie wearer Raj Bhakta, 28, was the latest candidate fired by Trump on the second season of "The Apprentice." As project manager of the Apex team, Bhakta failed to increase the value of a Long Island house, and the Mosaic team won.

"I lost a real estate task to a wedding planner, and I'm in the real estate business," Bhakta told *The Associated Press* on Friday. "I think Trump fired me because, without even looking at the stinking pygmy bedroom I had to work with, the very idea of taking a four-bedroom house

and making it a three-bedroom house was bad."

Bhakta, who lives in Vail, Colo., and Philadelphia, was portrayed as an over-the-top flashy flirter on the NBC reality show. During the latest episode, Trump warned Bhakta of the \$20,000 seed money: "Make sure you spend it on the house, not on the women, Raj."

"Showing the full spread of my personality was both a blessing and a bane in many ways," said Bhakta. He said he's been accosted by fans on the streets of Philadelphia. One woman, he said, "doubled over like she had seen John Lennon."

Despite the attention he's received, Bhakta said the "Ap-

prentice" experience was far from luxurious. He didn't like being followed by cameras 24 hours a day or the back-stabbing among candidates.

"It showcases the underbelly of human nature," he said. "Someone is forced to draw the knife and drive it down your spine."

Bhakta, a moderate Republican with political aspirations, said of his newfound fame: "I've always been famous in my own mind."

Oh, and what about his post-firing attempt to get the phone number of Trump's receptionist, Robin Himmler, who calls the apprentices into the boardroom?

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Eminem has bodyguard drop off ballot

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Eminem made his voice heard for the first time at the ballot box. The 32-year-old rapper voted by absentee ballot in Tuesday's presidential election and had a bodyguard drop it off, township clerk Dennis Tomlinson said.

"This guy (the bodyguard) was huge. I'd hate to run into him in a dark alley late at night," Tomlinson told *The Macomb Daily* of Mount Clemens.

No word on who Eminem voted for. In a recent interview with *Rolling Stone*, he said it would be his first time voting. He was highly critical of President Bush but had not yet settled on Democrat John Kerry.

William, Harry ushers at British wedding

CHESTER, England (AP)—With Prince William and Prince Harry taking on the mundane roles of ushers, you could believe it was the society wedding of the year in Britain. The princes got a big cheer from an estimated 4,000 people who came to gawk in the narrow streets outside Chester cathedral, stealing some of the limelight at the wedding of Lady Tamara Grosvenor, daughter of the duke of Westminster, and Edward van Cutsem.

Both families are well-connected with royal circles and some 650 guests—including Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip—attended the ceremonies at Chester Cathedral.

Prince Charles was absent, reportedly because he balked at sitting far away from his partner, Camilla Parker Bowles. Charles said he had to attend a meeting with families of the Black Watch Regiment, which was recently redeployed nearer Baghdad.

The 24-year-old bride is the eldest daughter of the duke of Westminster, Britain's richest man with a personal fortune estimated at \$7.4 billion.

The groom is a banker.

Actor Busey settles dispute over home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Gary Busey walked into court and handed over a check for \$30,000 to settle a lawsuit accusing him of falling behind on the rent for his Malibu house, court officials said.

Busey, 60, has lived in the modest three-bedroom hillside home with ocean views for more than 10 years.

His lawyer, Vicki Roberts, said Saturday that Busey stopped paying the \$6,000 monthly rent after complaining to the landlord that dust, dirt and mold in the ventilation system was affecting his breathing.

The settlement requires the landlord to do all necessary repairs, including the ventilation system, Roberts said.

The landlord, Robert Wesson, filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court. His lawyer, James R. McDaniel, could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

Father-in-law is too eager to know new granddaughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

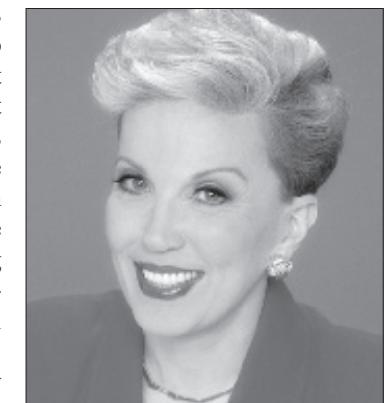
DEAR ABBY: I was married nine months ago to a man I love dearly. It has been an adjustment for all of us, and at times it has been stressful. We have been working on some issues, but for the most part we're doing well. I have a 12-year-old daughter I'll call "Ginger."

The problem is my new father-in-law, "Grant." He lives alone a few states away from us. We see him only a few times a year. I barely know him. Grant has been asking to take Ginger alone for a weekend at his secluded home. I have a real problem with that. Grant also asked to take Ginger to visit his mother—an even farther distance. He planned on having my daughter alone with him in a hotel for a week. I said no.

Abby, Grant plans these outings in his head and then gets upset when I say no. I'm not comfortable allowing my innocent child to spend time alone with a man in his 60s whom I don't know very well.

I have invited Grant to our home so he can get to know us both, and he always has an excuse not to come. This is causing a rift between my husband and me. Grant has made my husband feel guilty, and it has caused arguments between the two of us. I want to please my husband, but I don't want to place Ginger in a situation that I am not comfortable with. What should I do?

WORRIED MOTHER IN MASSACHUSETTS



Dear Abby

DEAR WORRIED MOTHER: Stick to your guns and insist that your father-in-law "get to know" your daughter only in situations that you can supervise. There is a reason why your alarm bells are ringing, and frankly, after reading your letter, they went off in my head, too. Listen to your motherly instinct and do not allow yourself to be manipulated into doing otherwise.

□ □ □

DEAR ABBY: I have a warning for your readers. It is always touching to hear stories of long-lost loves being reunited to then live happily ever after. I had a love like that when I was in high school. He was in the Army in California.

We met again after 41 years, fell in love, and began what seemed like a dream come true. I gave up a great job and proximity to family and friends to relocate to Washington. My dream turned into a financially and emotionally draining nightmare. After a year and a half of marriage that volleyed between cruelty and reassurances of his love, I confirmed my intuition that he had been lying and cheating the whole time.

I had based my trust in him on that sweet history that was decades in the past. I am writing to urge others to be cautious. Do not misplace your trust as I did.

BETRAYED AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

DEAR BETRAYED: While it's true that many childhood sweethearts successfully rekindle that old flame in later life, it's also true that as people grow older they sometimes change—and not always for the better. That's why it's important to look carefully before you leap into anything and take nothing for granted.

I'm sorry your happy ending turned out badly and your prince into a toad. Be glad you know the truth and are again in control of your future because—believe me—it's not over until you take your last breath.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes



Bobcats get first win in franchise history



CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Gerald Wallace slid face-first off the court after a hard foul, popped back up and looked at the scoreboard. He wasn't seeing things—the Charlotte Bobcats really were on their way to the first win in franchise history.

The expansion Bobcats wrestled for rebounds, scrambled after loose balls and outhustled the Orlando Magic en route to a 111-100 victory on Saturday.

Primoz Brezec, quickly emerging as Charlotte's star player, had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Bobcats. Wallace added 18 points and 10 rebounds, Steve Smith had 14 points, and Jason Hart had 14 points and 11 assists.

"All I can say is those young men deserve it, they play hard and they never surrendered," Charlotte coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "But we still do some things that can cause cardiac arrest."

Cuttino Mobley led the Magic with 23 points. Grant Hill, playing in his first back-to-back games since Dec. 15-16, 2002, scored 16 for the Magic. Hedo Turkoglu also had 16.

"To this day I know who Orlando's first win was—the Detroit Pistons," Hill said. "We don't want to be their first win. It goes down in history."

Celtics 107, Knicks 73

In New York, Paul Pierce scored 28 points, Ricky Davis added 20, and Boston shot 56 percent to win for the first time this season after opening with two losses at home.

Pierce shot 10-for-18 from the field and 6-for-6 from the line with 10 rebounds and eight assists. Gary Payton added nine points, leaving him 15 shy of becoming the 29th player in NBA history to score 20,000.

Stephon Marbury scored 12 and Jamal Crawford had 11. Reserve forward Michael Sweetney led New York with 18 points.

Heat 118, Wizards 106

In Washington, Dwyane Wade had career highs with 37 points and 12 assists to again overshadow Shaquille O'Neal, and Miami improved to 3-0 for the second time in franchise history.

Wade made 11 of 16 field goals, 14 of 16 free throws and outshone the Wizards trio of Gilbert Arenas, Antawn Jamison and Larry Hughes, who combined for 77 points and rallied Washington from a 10-point third-quarter

deficit to tie the game late.

O'Neal, hampered by foul trouble and a strained hamstring, scored 13 points in 27 minutes while facing a team that started 6-foot-8 (2.03-meter) Michael Ruffin at center.

Pistons 99, 76ers 91

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups had 20 points and 10 assists, and Richard Hamilton added 17 points, leading Detroit over Philadelphia.

Rasheed Wallace scored 16 points, and Ben Wallace had 11 points and 16 rebounds for the Pistons, who were without coach Larry Brown for a second straight game. Brown is hospitalized after having hip surgery on Wednesday.

Allen Iverson scored 31 points for the Sixers but was limited to just eight points in the second half.

Timberwolves 99, Hornets 92

In Minneapolis, Latrell Sprewell ended a quiet night with a flurry, scoring seven points over a two-minute span down the stretch to spark Minnesota over New Orleans.

Sprewell, whose contract complaints have been the main focus of this first week of the Timberwolves' season, finished with 14 points and five rebounds.

Kevin Garnett had eight of his 29 points in a 70-second span with less than two minutes remaining. He also grabbed 15 rebounds.

Baron Davis had 21 points and 12 assists, and David Wesley scored 21 points on 7-for-18 shooting for the winless Hornets.

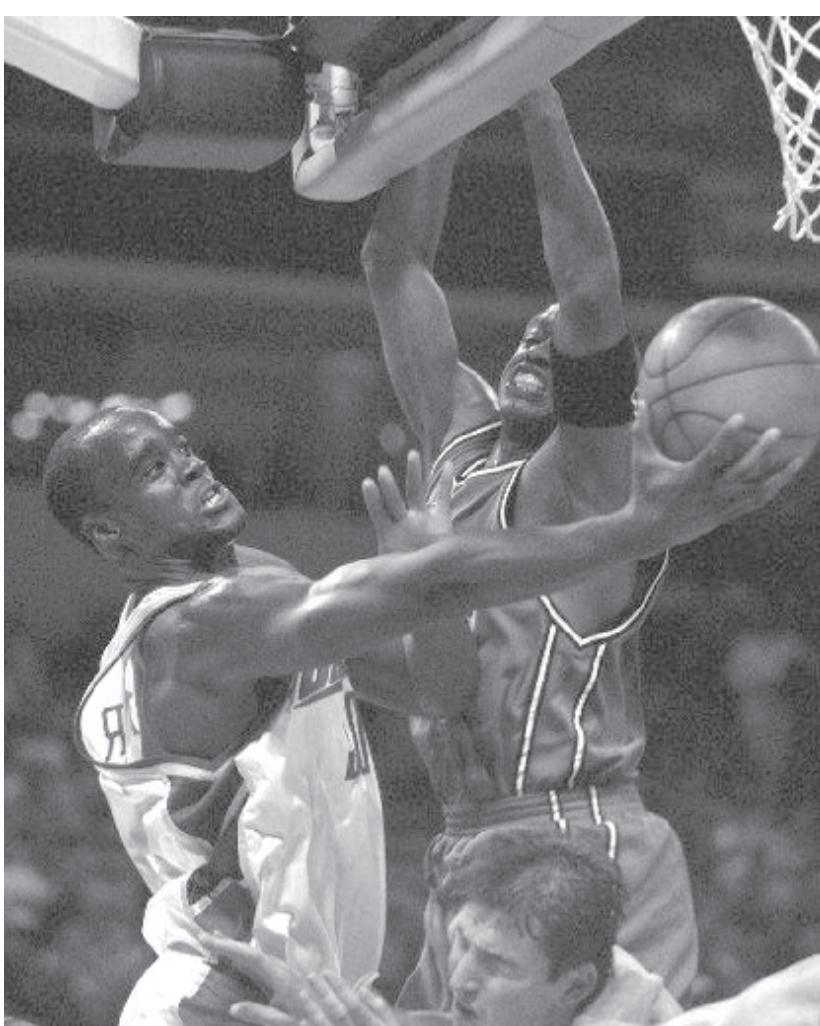
Pacers 100, Bulls 90

In Indianapolis, with five players sitting out and both All Stars on the bench with foul trouble, a group of role players helped Indiana pull away for a victory over Chicago.

Fred Jones hit three 3-pointers during the 19-6 spurt in the third quarter, and Stephen Jackson led the way with 24 points and four steals to help the banged-up Pacers improve to 3-0.

Indiana was up 62-57 with just over six minutes to play when Ron Artest and Jermaine O'Neal picked up their fourth fouls. That's when a group including Jackson, Jones, Jamaal Tinsley, Austin Croshere and David Harrison extended Indiana's lead.

Bulls rookie Luol Deng had 25 points on 10-of-15 shooting and five rebounds.



Jazz 106, Nuggets 82

In Denver, Carlos Boozer had 30 points and 17 rebounds, and Andrei Kirilenko added 16 points to help Utah defeat Denver.

After opening the season with easy wins over the Los Angeles Lakers and Golden State, Utah put the Nuggets away early with good shooting and even better defense to open with three straight wins for the first time since going 5-0 in 2000-01.

The Nuggets stagnated on offense, rotated poorly on defense and were booed several times by the home fans after their second lackluster effort in three games.

Carmelo Anthony made just three of 20 shots, scored 7 points and started the second half on the bench. Earl Boykins had 17 points and Kenyon Martin 14 for Denver.

Rockets 104, Kings 101, OT

In Houston, Charlie Ward made two 3-pointers in overtime and Yao Ming scored 33 points for the Rockets, who rallied late in their home opener to beat Sacramento.

Tracy McGrady added 23 points in his Houston debut.

Yao scored 16 points after the third quarter, making nearly all the key shots down the stretch to help the Rockets hold off Sacramento.

Mike Bibby led the Kings with 31 points and seven assists, but it wasn't enough to keep them from going winless during their season-opening, three-game swing through Texas. Peja Stojakovic added 23 points, and Chris Webber 20.

Clippers 94, Warriors 86

In Oakland, California, Corey Maggette had 26 points and six assists, and Bobby Simmons added 22 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers past Golden State.

Elton Brand had 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists for the Clippers, who led by as many as 23 on the way to their 11th victory in 14 meetings between the teams in Oakland.

Maggette scored 13 points in the opening period.

Speedy Claxton had 18 points and nine assists before fouling out, Troy Murphy had 17 points before getting his sixth foul, and Jason Richardson added 15 points and six rebounds for Golden State (0-3).

Suns 112, Nets 80

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Steve Nash had 17 points and eight assists, and Phoenix rode 57.4-percent shooting to its third straight victory.

The 3-0 start is the best for the Suns since they went 5-0 to begin the 1984-85 season.

Amare Stoudemire added 22 points, Joe Johnson had 18 and Shawn Marion 13 for Phoenix, which came into the game averaging an NBA-best 110 points.

Despite two early fouls, Richard Jefferson had 24 points to lead the Nets. Alonzo Mourning was the only other New Jersey player who looked as if he belonged on the floor. He added 12 points and seven rebounds.

Bucks 102, Cavaliers 88

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 28 points, and Keith Van Horn had 22 points and 14 rebounds to lead Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Pau Gasol led Memphis with 18 points.

LeBron James scored 31 points for Cleveland, winless in three games this season. Jeff McInnis added 16 points and Drew Gooden had 12 for the Cavs.

Van Horn and Mo Williams pulled the Bucks back into the game when they sparked a 14-0 run at the third quarter and beginning of the fourth.

Mavericks 112, Grizzlies 88

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki hit a nifty basket that turned into a three-point play and finished with 22 points as Dallas mauled Memphis.

Michael Finley added 23 points, and Nowitzki also had 13 rebounds.

New center Erick Dampier had 13 points and 18 rebounds, while Jason Terry had 15 points and rookie Devin Harris added 14 for the Mavericks. All three of their wins have come against playoff teams from last season.

Pau Gasol led Memphis with 18 points.

Clemson scores in OT, shocks No. 11 Miami

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Reggie Merriweather ran for a career-high 114 yards and three touchdowns, including a 2-yard score in overtime Saturday night to cap Clemson's 24-17 comeback victory over No. 11 Miami.

Clemson needed five plays to score in the extra session, with the Tigers benefiting from a pass-interference

Clemson corner back Tye Hill (8), right, and Miami Florida's Darnell Jenkins (8) struggle to catch a pass during the first quarter of the Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004, game in Miami.

penalty against cornerback Kelly Jennings. That moved Clemson to the 10, and Merriweather scored three plays later to cap the Tigers' rally from a 17-3 halftime deficit.

On its overtime possession, Miami moved to the Clemson 5, but three straight incompletions by Brock Berlin sealed the Hurricanes' second straight loss. Berlin's final attempt was intended for Lance Leggett in the corner of the end zone, but Clemson's Tye Hill had him well-covered and the ball bounced away.

The loss knocked the Hurricanes (6-2, 3-2) out of first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference, leaving them a game behind Virginia and Virginia Tech in the race for the league title and

automatic Bowl Championship Series berth. Miami visits Virginia next weekend, and hosts Virginia Tech on Dec. 4 in the regular-season finale.

Clemson (5-4, 4-3) has won four straight games for the first time in four seasons.

Frank Gore had 105 yards and two touchdowns for Miami, which also lost on the game's final play a week ago at North Carolina. Clemson out-gained Miami 215-104 after halftime, sparking the comeback.

The win marked the first for the Bowden clan against Miami coach Larry Coker; Clemson coach Tommy Bowden is the son of Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, who is 0-5 against Coker.



Keystoners collide in Eagles-Steelers game

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Eagles and Steelers once were so closely tied they briefly shared owners and players during World War II. The paths of these cross-state rivals rarely cross nowadays, but Sunday's matchup offers up two of the NFL's best teams in what many Pennsylvanians hope is the first of two Pittsburgh-Philadelphia games this season.

The second, of course, couldn't come until the Super Bowl. Coach Andy Reid said it's much, much too early to think about that—even if his Eagles (7-0) are the NFL's lone unbeaten team and the Steelers (6-1) just ended New England's 21-game winning streak.

"It's not an NFC rivalry, it's not an AFC rivalry, it's an instate rivalry and probably as close as you'll get to those college rivalries as you're going to find," Reid said.

Fittingly enough in a state in which college rivals Penn State and Pitt no longer play, the Eagles and Steelers rarely do, either, despite being separated by only five hours of constantly under-repair turnpike. This will be only their second game in seven years and just their ninth since the AFL-NFL merger 34 years ago.

That doesn't mean there aren't story lines aplenty as the Steelers try to become the first team in NFL history to knock off unbeaten teams in successive games past Week 6. The Eagles can become only the seventh team to win 10 consecutive road games.

After playing one of their biggest regular-season games in years, the Steelers face a potentially bigger game—and not just because they want to keep Terrell Owens' dancing shoes out of the end zone.

"No question about it: Philadelphia is probably the best team in football right now," Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress said. "They've got a great defense, two MVP candidates on offense (Owens and QB Donovan McNabb), one of the premier coaches on the sidelines and maybe the best kicker (David Akers) in the NFL, great special teams, great team speed. They should be 7-0."

Want more? How about the unbeaten quarterbacks, Donovan McNabb and Ben Roethlisberger? Pittsburgh's Roethlisberger can join Mike Krueck of the 1976 Steelers as the only rookie



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger reacts after throwing the first touchdown of his career in the third quarter against the Baltimore Ravens, in this Sept. 19, 2004 file photo, in Baltimore.

quarterbacks since 1970 to win their first six NFL starts.

Roethlisberger has been so good so soon—a 70 percent completion rate, two fourth-quarter comeback wins, the upset of New England—that his jersey is selling faster than a Philly cheesesteak on South Street.

And how's this for instant fame? Roethlisberger wasn't playing two months ago; this weekend, Fox Sports Net Pittsburgh airs a biographical special entitled "Ben Roethlisberger: In My Own Words" in which he discusses his upbringing and career to date.

While he is handling public acclaim just fine, Roethlisberger now must show he can handle all the blitzes Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Johnson will throw at him.

"If Ben thought what he saw (from New England) last week was a little confusing, then there will be mass confusion this week, because this guy is going to bring it and it is going to come from anywhere and everywhere," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said.

Duce Staley's defection from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh also adds to the intrigue. Staley was

so unhappy with Philadelphia's three-back rotation last season that he signed with Pittsburgh, where he's gaining 101 yards per game and has been the perfect complement to Roethlisberger.

"I'm happy for them, happy they're 7-0, but you know they've got to come in here," Staley said, referring to his old team.

Staley only hopes he's there waiting for them. He was downgraded from probable (sore knee) to questionable (sore hamstring) Saturday, meaning there is a 50 percent chance he will play.

No doubt the Eagles wish they had Staley now. Their running back depth has disappeared with Correll Buckhalter injured and out for the season, and Brian Westbrook (cracked rib) uncertain for Sunday. Dorsey Levens subbed for Westbrook last week against Baltimore but was held to 40 yards on 12 carries.

"The guys we have here have really stepped up their games and tried to erase the memory of a guy like Duce, which is hard," McNabb said. "But it's tough losing a guy like Duce Staley."

And as good as their defense is, with a superb pass rush led by

Jevon Kearse that has a league-high 25 sacks, the Eagles are in the bottom half against the run—a big concern given how the Steelers outrushed New England 221-5.

Pittsburgh's biggest worry is whether undersized cornerbacks Willie Williams (5-foot-9) and Deshea Townsend (5-10) can handle the 6-3 Owens, who triggered a mini-controversy with his end zone dance parody of Ravens star linebacker Ray Lewis. Owens was celebrating his NFL-leading ninth touchdown catch.

"I think he really game-plans what he's going to do after he scores," Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward said. "We just have to keep him out of the end zone so we don't have to see those things."

Just like the Steelers don't want to see any more unbeaten teams. They are first NFL team since the 1934 Lions to face unbeaten teams in consecutive weeks so late in a season.

"When you watch us play the way we played last week, there is no reason to think we should not do that every week," Cowher said. "We are not going to have a letdown."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	2	0	1.000	—
Boston	1	2	.333	1 1/2
New Jersey	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	1 1/2
New York	0	2	.000	2

Southeast Division

Miami	3	0	1.000	—
Orlando	2	1	.667	1
Washington	2	1	.667	1
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Atlanta	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	3	0	1.000	—
Detroit	2	1	.667	1
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	0	2	.000	2 1/2
Cleveland	0	3	.000	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	3	0	1.000	—
San Antonio	2	0	1.000	1/2
Houston	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Memphis	0	3	.000	3
New Orleans	0	3	.000	3

Northwest Division

Utah	3	0	1.000	—
Portland	2	0	1.000	1/2
Minnesota	2	1	.667	1
Seattle	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Denver	1	2	.333	2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	3	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	1
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333	2
Golden State	0	3	.000	3
Sacramento	0	3	.000	3

Yesterday's Games

Miami 118, Washington 106

Charlotte 111, Orlando 100

Boston 107, New York 73

Detroit 99, Philadelphia 91

Indiana 100, Chicago 90

Phoenix 112, New Jersey 80

Minnesota 99, New Orleans 92

Houston 104, Sacramento 101, OT

Milwaukee 102, Cleveland 88

Dallas 112, Memphis 88

Utah 106, Denver 82

L.A. Clippers 94, Golden State 86

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

EAST

Air Force 31, Army 22

Boston College 21, Rutgers 10

Brown 24, Yale 17

Bucknell 21, Fordham 20

Cent. Connecticut St. 38, Stony Brook 28

Colgate 22, Lafayette 19

Cornell 14, Dartmouth 7

Duquesne 56, La Salle 35

Harvard 38, Columbia 0

Hofstra 31, Maine 20

Holy Cross 44, Marist 13

Kent St. 33, Buffalo 7

Lehigh 49, Georgetown, D.C. 18

Massachusetts 26, Northeastern 22

Monmouth, N.J. 28, Sacred Heart 10

New Hampshire 27, Rhode Island 3

Northwestern 14, Penn St. 7

Penn 16, Princeton 15

Robert Morris 34, Albany, N.Y. 7

St. Peter's 23, Iona 14

Syracuse 38, Pittsburgh 31, 20T

Wagner 17, St. Francis, Pa. 14

West Virginia 42, Temple 21

SOUTH

Alabama 30, Mississippi St. 14

Alabama A&M 22, Jackson St. 6

Alabama St. 37, Grambling St. 23

Alcorn St. 31, MVSU 30

Appalachian St. 48, Elon 7

Austin Peay 20, Davidson 17, 20T

Charleston Southern 58, Allen 6

Cincinnati 52, Southern Miss. 24

Coastal Carolina 52, Savannah St. 14

E. Kentucky 41, Tenn.-Martin 14

Florida 34, Vanderbilt 17

Florida St. 2

Corner Pocket shifts to Thursday 8-ball

The favorite billiards venue of the island's slickest pool players is moving its regular Tuesday 8-Ball Tournament to Thursday beginning this week.

The renamed Thursday 8-Ball Tournament starts this coming Thursday, Nov. 12, 8pm. Participants must fork over \$15 to enter the double-elimination competition. Progressive pot for 8-ball in a break will apply. Game starts at 8pm.

Ladies will also be given a handicap and players are given free practice rounds before the tournament starts provided they buy drinks from the bar.

First place is assured half of the total entrance fee with runner-up and third places also coming home with cash prizes. The Top 3 will also receive Budweiser giveaways from MARPAC.



Corner Pocket's Thursday 8-Ball Tournament can host a maximum of 16 players.

Corner Pocket also continues to host the ever-popular Monday 9-Ball Tournament. As its name suggests, the tournament rolls off every Monday beginning at 9pm.

The competition uses a handicap to give beginners a chance against top-caliber players. Entry fee is \$10 and first place and second place are guaranteed prize money.

Both the regular 9-ball and 8-ball tournaments use the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. For more information on the regular Monday 9-Ball Tournament and upcoming Thursday 8-Ball Tournament, please contact Ken Phillips at 233-POOL (7665). (Mark Rabago)

CFL board to meet tomorrow night

As the players are busy preparing for the final game of the regular season of the 2004 edition of the Commonwealth Football League, coaches, organizers and officials are being called to assemble for a board meeting at 6pm tomorrow night at J's Res-

MRA meeting tonight

The Marianas Racing Association will be having a general membership meeting this evening, at the pavilion north of the Minachom Attdao in Oleai.

All of the association's current members along with anyone in-

TEREGEYO

From Page 28

nique—a tool for the guys. I wanted them to know that their coach was willing to put it on the line for his players," he said.

The Nitros almost doubled the Barbarians' offensive output with 161 overall. While his numbers don't reflect it, first-year quarterback Carmen Cabrera had a solid outing, completing 3-of-15 passes for 26 yards and two interceptions.

"I just woke up this morning and said that today was going to be the day. I give lots of credit to George (Lieto) and James (Hargrove). We did great today, and we'll make it up next week against the Chiefs," said Cabrera.

A product of the Eastern Eagles of the youth league, Cabrera was confidently moving his squad down the field all day, and he received plenty of

assistance from running backs James Hargrove and Ham "The Hammer" Haro. The Hammer rushed took the ball twice for 16 yards, while Hargrove ground out 54 yards on 11 carries and a two-point conversion.

Hargrove also provided a spark in the air, throwing two passes for 76 yards, and wide receiver Lieto finished with three receptions for 99 yards to lead all pass catchers on the day, bringing his total to 190 yards on the season with one game remaining.

"We're improving and gaining confidence, and our offense is getting going," said Hofsneider.

The heart pounding action of the CFL continues next Saturday, Nov. 13, when the Verizon Nitros return to the CPA Airport field to take on the undefeated Shell Chiefs in the final game of the regular season at 10am.

CALLING

From Page 28

team will have their shot at 5:30pm Thursday, Nov. 11 on the softball field at the Oleai Sports Complex.

To be eligible, all female players must be at least 16 years

of age, be willing to assist in all fundraising drives for the team, and be a United States citizen, national, or have a U.S. visa (for non-citizens to enter the U.S.).

For further information, contact SSA president Robert A. Guerrero by calling 888-0215 or 287-8093. (Brad E. Ruszala)

Cliffhangers in govt caging

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER



Department of Labor and Commonwealth Health Center had to work double time to squeak past separate opponents in the resumption of the 2004 Government Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, DOL had all their points come from starters but only were able to breath easy after Procurement and Supply's Frank Iglesias missed on his heave from halfcourt that preserved their 61-58 win.

Center Steve Rasa carried DOL on his broad shoulders, barreling his way for 14 points as the team led 19-15 after the opening quarter.

Rasa cooled off in the second but playing-coach Tony Sablan picked up where he left off, rifling a triple and deuce to help DOL to a 32-23 advantage at the turn.

Iglesias and Oscar Masga, Sablan's Verizon teammates in the Masters Basketball League, then ignited a P&S uprising in the third that had DOL scrambling to regain control with little success, and at the end of three quarters of play, P&S had gutted DOL's lead to a mere 6 points, 41-47.

P&S' play steadily improved, while DOL's continued to ebb in the fourth. Sparked by the 10 markers of John Palacios, P&S caught up with DOL in the final minutes of the contest.

Key baskets, however, by guard Mitch Aaron prevented a complete collapse by DOL, as they somehow managed to pull off the win.

After forward Tim Wesley



MARK RABAGO

CHC's Ernie Guillermo goes up for a layup against an unidentified defender from OPA in the 2004 Government Basketball League Friday night.

missed the backend of his free throws, Masga rebounded the ball and passed to a streaking Iglesias, who had no choice but to launch a Hail Mary shot with seconds left that ricocheted harmlessly off the backboard.

Rasa paced all scorers with

24 points, while Sablan and Wesley added 12 and 11 markers apiece. Aaron pumped in 9 points, 7 in the pivotal fourth.

Masga and Palacios led P&S' losing cause with identical 13 points. Iglesias fired 11.

In the second game, CHC

the last two days was a three-putt from some 50 feet on the opening hole Saturday. But he Woods recovered with some clean shots and timely putts—a 9-iron to 10 feet on No. 8 and to 12 feet on No. 9, followed by a couple of 30-footers down the slope that trickled into the cup on their last roll.

He suddenly looked like the Woods of old, pumping his fist, pointing at the cup when the ball disappeared. Even a few breaks started falling his way, none greater than a wayward drive on the 17th that landed on the grassy slope of a bunker and stopped in a patch of short grass between two traps.

But while a victory might take some of the sting out of a frustrating year, this might be one case where Woods could be the spoiler.

Woods has been one of the more amazing stories in golf the last two years. Despite being eligible for the 50-and-over Champions Tour, he has continued to tee it up against

the best with strong results. He was the second-oldest player to compete in the Ryder Cup, and he became the oldest to qualify for the Tour Championship.

All he has to do now is take down the most formidable closer in golf for his first victory in more than a decade.

"It probably takes a little pressure off me," Haas said. "If I don't win, everybody will say, 'Well, my goodness, he's up against one of the best players in the world and he's 50 years old,' and all that stuff. That's kind of disrespecting myself if I think that way."

"I can do it. I've got to think that."

Haas showed plenty of resolve, especially after sloppy bogeys on the second and third holes that trimmed his lead to a single shot. And it didn't look much better when he hit his approach long on No. 4 and had a 12-foot par putt.

"That felt like a birdie," Haas said of a par save that kept his round going.

played to the level of the competition and were fortunate to pull off a 58-56 victory over a rag-tag team from the Office Public Auditor.

Amazingly, CHC turned away from their strengths and consistently shot baskets from afar when they had 6'4" Tony Raho and 6'3" Joe Tudela manning the inside.

OPA had no trouble exploiting CHC's flawed gameplan and even managed to lead 30-29, 41-40 in the second and third quarters of a tightly fought game.

Luckily for CHC, their opponents' inadequacies finally caught up with them in the dying seconds, as players from OPA misfired on a couple of gimme baskets that allowed CHC to escape with the win.

Tudela bullied his way for 15 points, while long-range artist Tom Diaz and Raho added 13 and 12 points for the victors.

Robert Torres was the high-point man for OPA with 18 markers, while Christian Camacho came away with 10.

First Game

DOL 61 – Rasa 24, T. Sablan 12, Wesley 11, Aaron 9, Ayuy 5.

P&S 58 – Masga 13, J. Palacios 13, Iglesias 11, J. Palacios 8, Diaz 6, Cabrera 5, Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 32-23, 47-41, 61-58.

Referees: Jess Pacheco and Noel Delos Santos.

Second Game

CHC 58 – Tudela 15, T. Diaz 13, Raho 12, Guerrero 9, Guillermo 6, Kalen 2, Duenas 1.

OPA 56 – R. Torres 18, Camacho 10, Peter 9, F. Torres 8, Sablan 7, Pangelinean 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 29-30, 40-41, 58-56.

Referees: Mike White and Dado Vistal.

With Goosen and Woods starting to pull away, Haas chipped to 3 feet for birdie on No. 9, hit his approach to 10 feet for birdie on No. 10, then joined Woods in the lead with a shot into 3 feet on the 12th.

The friendship of young and old began last year at the U.S. Open, when Haas asked Woods to play a practice round with him and his 21-year-old son, Bill.

Woods and Haas are frequent partners in practice rounds now, and Woods referred to him as one of his best friends on tour. No telling what that will do to the dynamics Sunday, although one thing should be kept in mind.

The last time Woods and good pal Mark O'Meara went toe-to-toe on Sunday with a trophy on the line, O'Meara beat him in the finals of the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth.

And the last time Woods failed to hold a 54-hole lead was four years ago in the Tour Championship at East Lake.



Department of Labor and Commonwealth Health Center had to work double time to squeak past separate opponents in the resumption of the 2004 Government Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

27

Gerald Wallace slid face-first off the court after a hard foul, popped back up and looked at the scoreboard. He wasn't seeing things—the Charlotte Bobcats really were on their way to the first win in franchise history.

25



Teregeyo lifts Barbarians over Nitro

By BRAD E. RUSZALA

REPORTER

With 83 seconds remaining, Syl Teregeyo picked up a rolling football and returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown to give the Miller Barbarians their third win of the 2004 Commonwealth Football League season, as they just barely made it past the Verizon Nitro, 20-16, Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

After the Barbarians defense managed to hold Verizon on three downs deep in their own territory, Jack Aldan got away a booming punt that was unable to be fielded. Teregeyo chased the ball as it rolled along the field to his left, and tight-rope down the sideline before dancing his way across the goal line for what proved to be the game-winning touchdown.

"I was just going to lay down on the ball, but I saw (LeRoy Sablan and Jay Tilipao) ahead of me, so I ran it and followed their blocks," said Teregeyo.

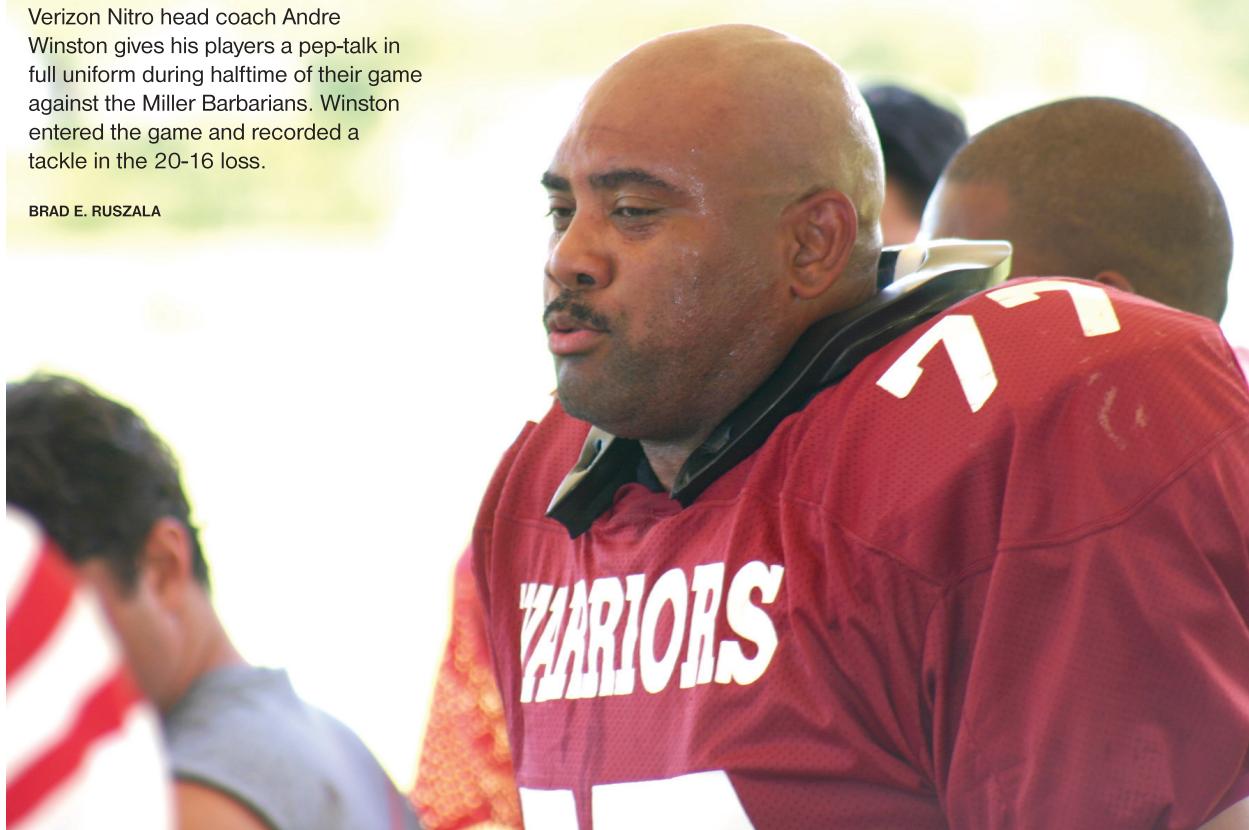
Teregeyo's late game heroics gave the game its third lead change, and was just one of several highlights that put a capper on what many in attendance referred to as the best game of the season.

"It was the baddest game of the season. Syl is the man," said future Barbarian hopeful Vic Rivera.

Teregeyo finished the day with three tackles and a key interception that stopped the Nitro deep in Barbarians' territory early in the game. Verizon eventually got on the board when first-year cornerback C.J. Hofsneider of Tinian High School returned a punt for a touchdown in the third quarter to tie the game.

Verizon Nitro head coach Andre Winston gives his players a pep-talk in full uniform during halftime of their game against the Miller Barbarians. Winston entered the game and recorded a tackle in the 20-16 loss.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



"I was just thinking 'Take it to the house' and we were going in (the end zone)," said Hofsneider.

The Nitro took the lead in the fourth quarter when a bad snap allowed Aldan to tackle Kaipat in the end zone for a safety on the next drive, 8-6. A Jack Barcina sack of Carmen Cabrera resulted in a fumble and excellent field position for the Barbarians the next series. Tagabuel led the black and gold down field, and squeezed in for a one-yard touchdown to retake the lead, 14-8.

On the next kick-off, Blake Manibu-

san returned the ball for the Nitro to the Verizon 49 yard line, and on the first play of the drive, running back James Hargrove got the ball on a fake reverse and threw a 51-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open George Lieto to give the Nitro the 16-14 lead late in the game.

The Nitro were able to stop the Barbarians on the ensuing drive, but were unable to maintain possession, and were forced to punt with a little over a minute and a half remaining.

"I'm still recovering from the heart attack that they gave me. That game was way too close. If this isn't a wake up call,

then I don't know what is," said Barbarians' head coach Clyde Lemons.

Though the Barbarians managed only to rack up a mere 84 yards of offense, they received a solid game from their defense and special teams units to help carry them through. Quarterback Plasido Tagabuel had a difficult day under center, as the Barbarians' signal caller completed just one of 13 passes for eight yards.

"This game was won by our defense, Syl (Teregeyo), and Roy (Kaipat)," said Tagabuel.

"Plas Pass" didn't have to have a great day, because running back Chong

Won broke through for his best game of the year. Won rushed 15 times for 86 yards, thanks in part to his offensive line that at times opened up holes big enough to drive a truck through.

The Barbarians also got a great game from runner/kicker/punter/passenger Roy Kaipat. In his first game back since suffering an injury to his knee in the season opener, Kaipat took the ball for most of the plays on the Barbarians' final drive of the game that led to a one yard touchdown run by Tagabuel. Kaipat said that he didn't think that he would be able to play that long in the game, but he ran the ball 14 times for 42 yards, threw a pass from the backfield, booted three kick-offs, and had six punts—including a 49 yarder.

In his absence, the Nitro have improved a bit since the last time that Kaipat had the opportunity to watch the team, and it caught him off-guard a bit.

"I was scared. They kept coming back to take the lead. It was a tough game—they surprised us".

The Verizon Nitro surprised a lot of people on Saturday, and while the emotional rollercoaster had fans on the edge of their seats, coach Andre Winston was, too.

"I can't even think—I'm just overwhelmed. It's just another week of progression. Each week the guys are gaining confidence and learning to execute," he said.

Winston was so into the game that he donned the pads for his team for the first time since he played semi-pro in 2000. Big number 77 trotted out onto the field in a maroon jersey and figured into a few plays recording a tackle.

"It was more of a motivation tech-

See TEREGEYO on Page 27

Tiger Woods shares Tour Championship lead

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP GOLF WRITER



ATLANTA (AP)—Tiger Woods put together his best back-to-back rounds in more than four years. The result was a share of the 54-hole lead, a place it seems he hasn't been in forever.

Playing his best golf of the year in the season-ending Tour Championship, Woods ran off four straight birdies Saturday at East Lake for a 5-under 65, leaving him tied with 50-year-old Jay Haas.

Woods is ruthless when he has at least a share of the lead going into the final round, with a 30-2 record on the PGA Tour. Trouble is, he hasn't been there lately.

The last time he held the 54-hole lead was last year at the American Express Championship just north of Atlanta. That was 19 stroke-play tournaments ago, which also is the last time Woods won such an event.



Tiger Woods hits from the tee on the 16th hole during the third round play of the Tour Championship Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004, in Atlanta. Woods shot a 5-under-par 65 and is tied for the lead with Jay Haas at 9-under.

"I'm going to give it my best," Woods said.

Haas recovered from two early bogeys and shot 68, making a 6-foot par putt on the final hole to join Woods at 9-under 201. They will be paired together, two guys born 22 years apart with nothing in common but a strong friendship.

Woods has won 40 times in his eight-plus years on tour, including eight majors.

Haas has gone 11 years since his ninth career victory, the 1993 Texas Open. He has been atop the leaderboard going into the final round only three times since then.

"I definitely won't be the favorite tomorrow," Haas said. "But what he does shouldn't affect what I do."

U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen also made four straight birdies playing with Woods and had the outright lead until he failed to save par from two bunkers on the back nine. He shot 69 and was four shots behind, along with Mike Weir (67) and Stephen Ames (70).

See TIGER on Page 27

Calling all underhanded females



With the South Pacific Mini Games drawing ever closer, athletes around the CNMI have

begun to decide upon their sport of choice, and get a head start on training for the July event, while local organizations have taken on the task of selecting from the crème de la crème.

The Saipan Softball Association is no different in that respect, as they have announced that they will be holding tryouts for the Women's Fast-Pitch Softball Team that they will be taking to Palau next summer.

According to SSA president Robert A. Guerrero, all individuals interested in earning a spot on the

See CALLING on Page 27